Bennett • Cafaro • Prianto • Peteri

WITCHBLADE

18
JAN

DIGITAL EDITION
US

WITCHBLADE®

created by **Marc Silvestri**, **David Wohl**, **Brian Haberlin** & **Michael Turner**

New York City Police Detective Sara Pezzini's life was forever fractured by her father's murder. Cold, cunning, and hellbent on revenge, Sara now stalks a vicious criminal cabal beneath the city. During a brutal warehouse massacre, Sara bonded with the Witchblade, an ancient weapon that transformed her into something wild, magnificent, and beyond her darkest imaginings.

Previously... New York City Police Detective Sara Pezzini's dive into the world of the supernatural began with the search into the cover-up that destroyed her father. Along the way, she bonded with an ancient weapon known as the Witchblade, which, following recent events, has gone through a new transformation, bound by the powers of darkness and light, becoming something new that hangs in the balance. The city has been on the edge of erupting as a vigilante has cut a bloody swath through the streets. The identity of the supernatural serial killer known as Grinteeth has been revealed, and Sara is shaken to her core. Anna, as a survivor of human trafficking, took it upon herself to punish the wicked using the power from the severed hand of an Angelus being. Sara struggles to bring Anna back into the light, but after a brutal struggle, the scene of their battle crumbles around them, and there is only one way to lift the curse that hangs over them all. Meanwhile, a familiar face has come onto the scene, and their arrival will shake Sara and the Top Cow Universe to its core.

"My City of Ruins"

Written by **Marguerite Bennett**
Line art by **Giuseppe Cafaro**
Colors by **Arif Prianto** • Letters by **Troy Peteri**
Edits by **Marc Silvestri**, **Matt Hawkins** and **Ryan Cady**

Cover A: **Giuseppe Cafaro** and **Arif Prianto**
Cover B, C (Virgin), and Top Cow Store Spot Foil Exclusive:
Jason Shawn Alexander

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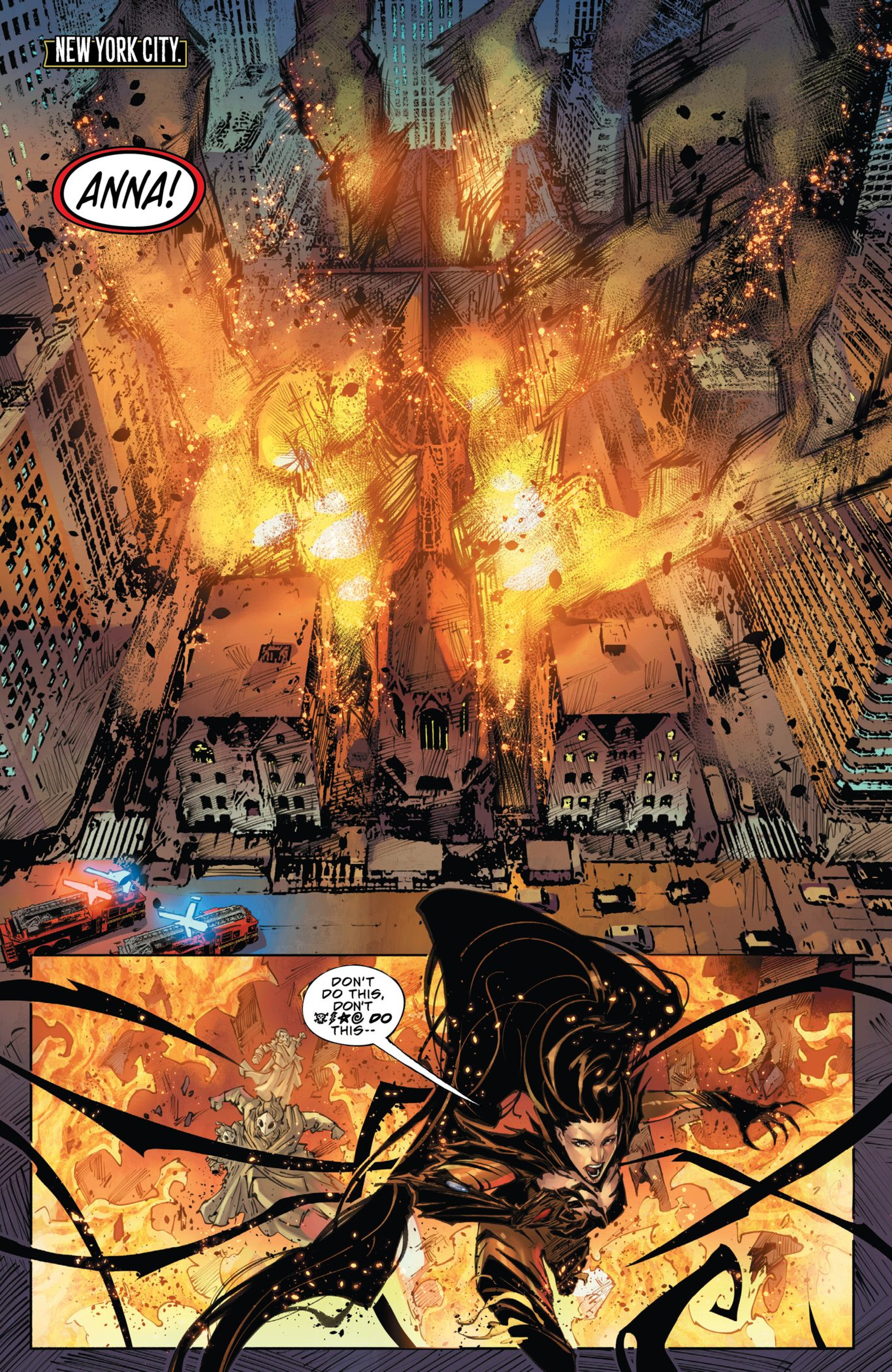
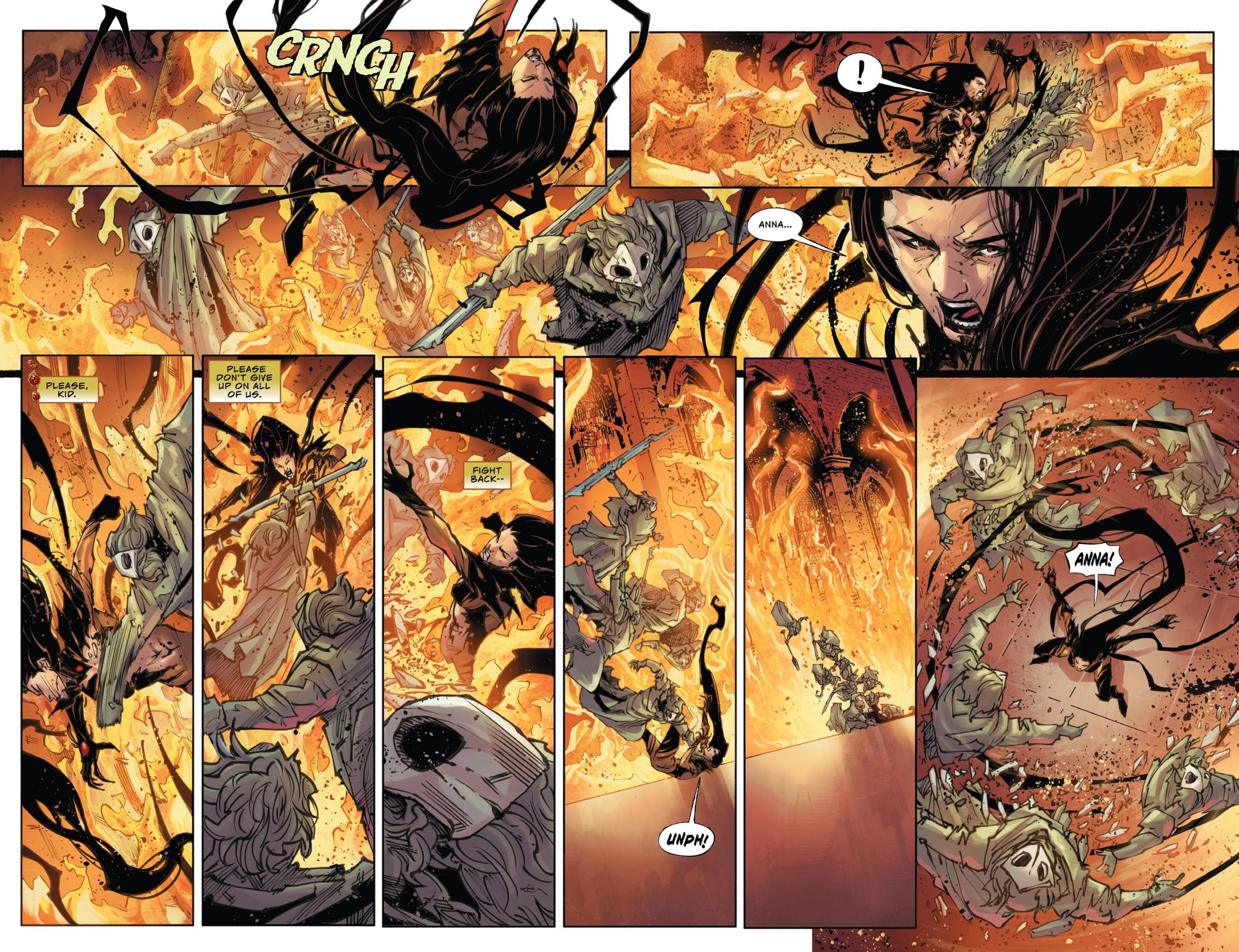
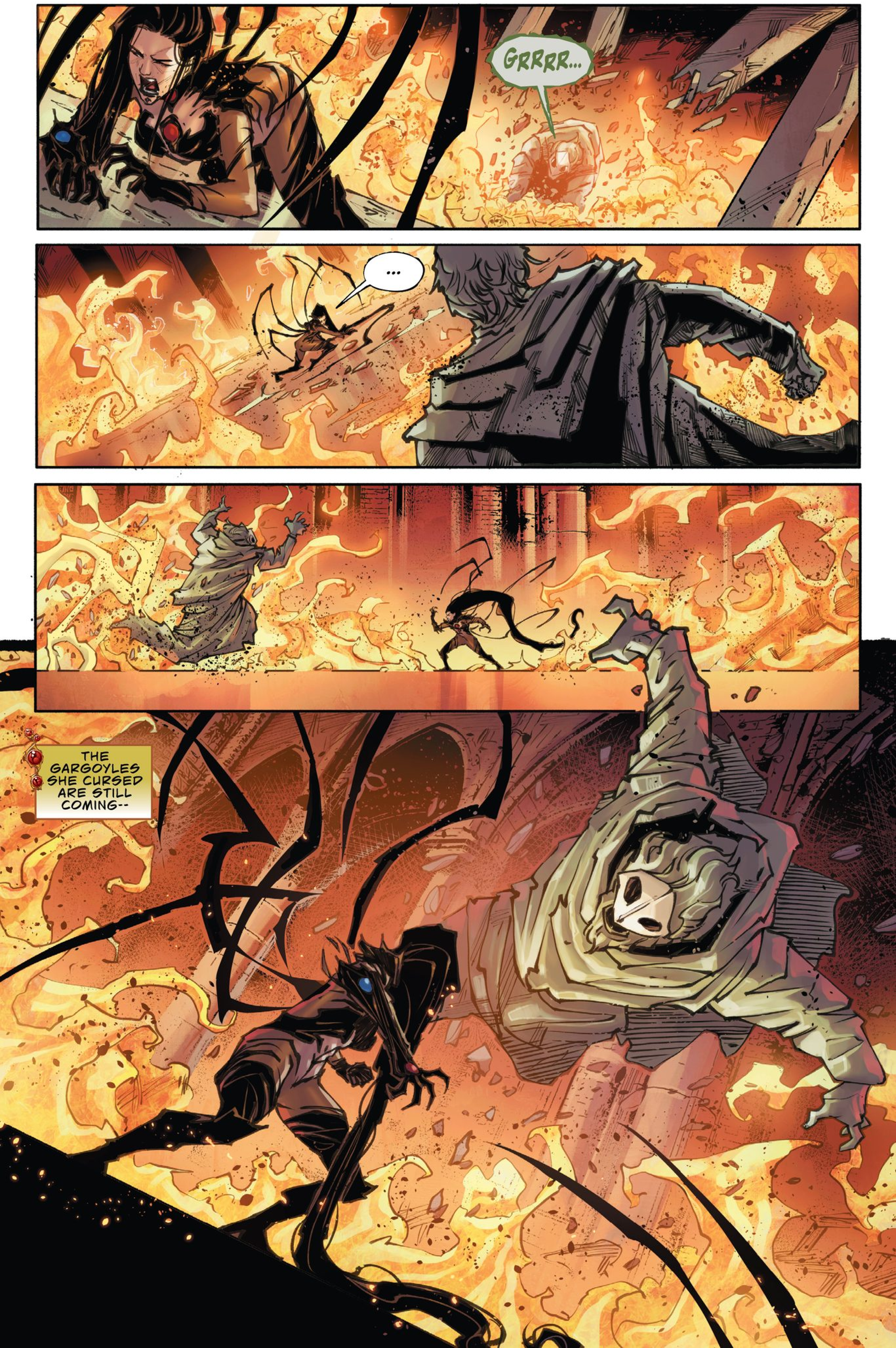
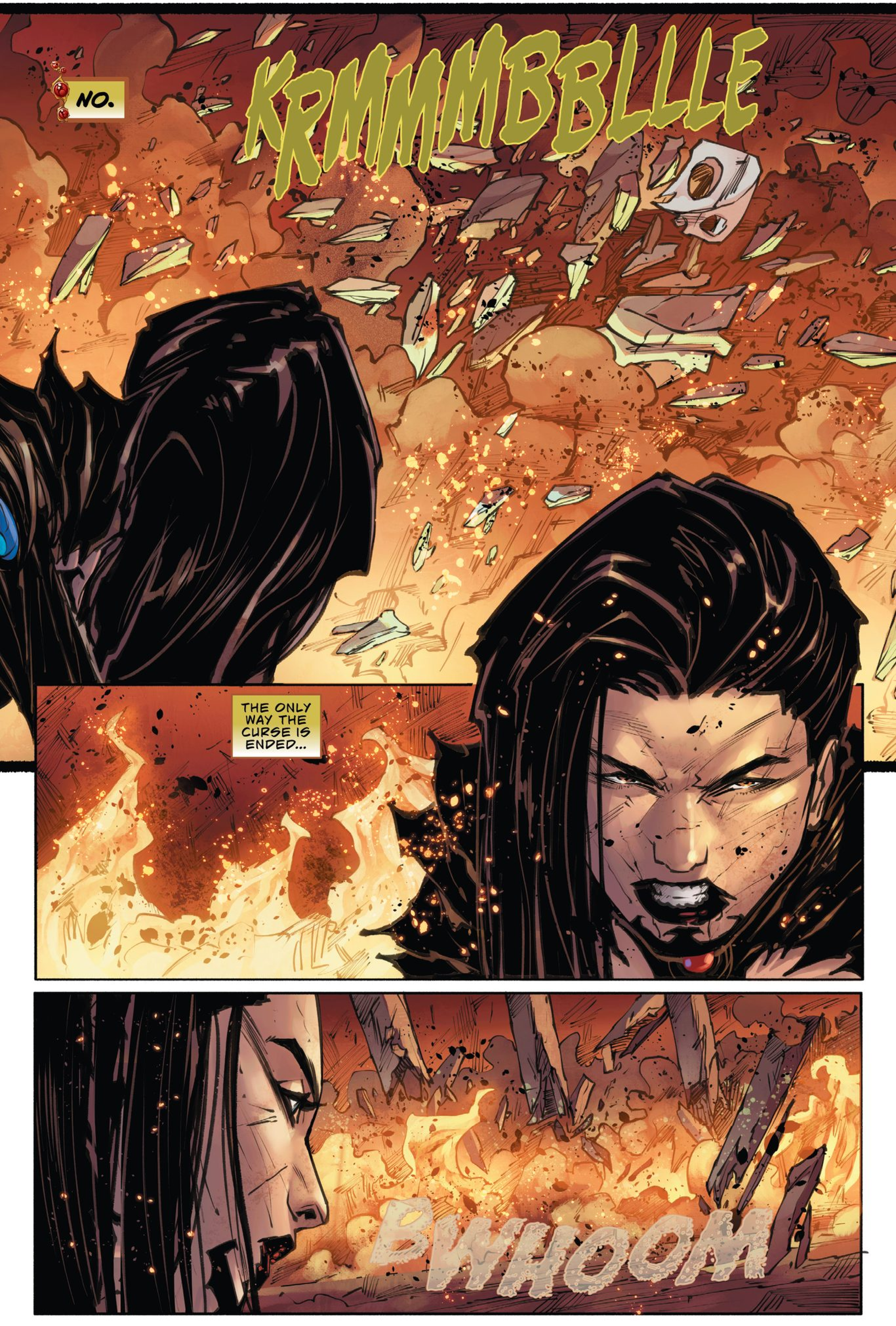
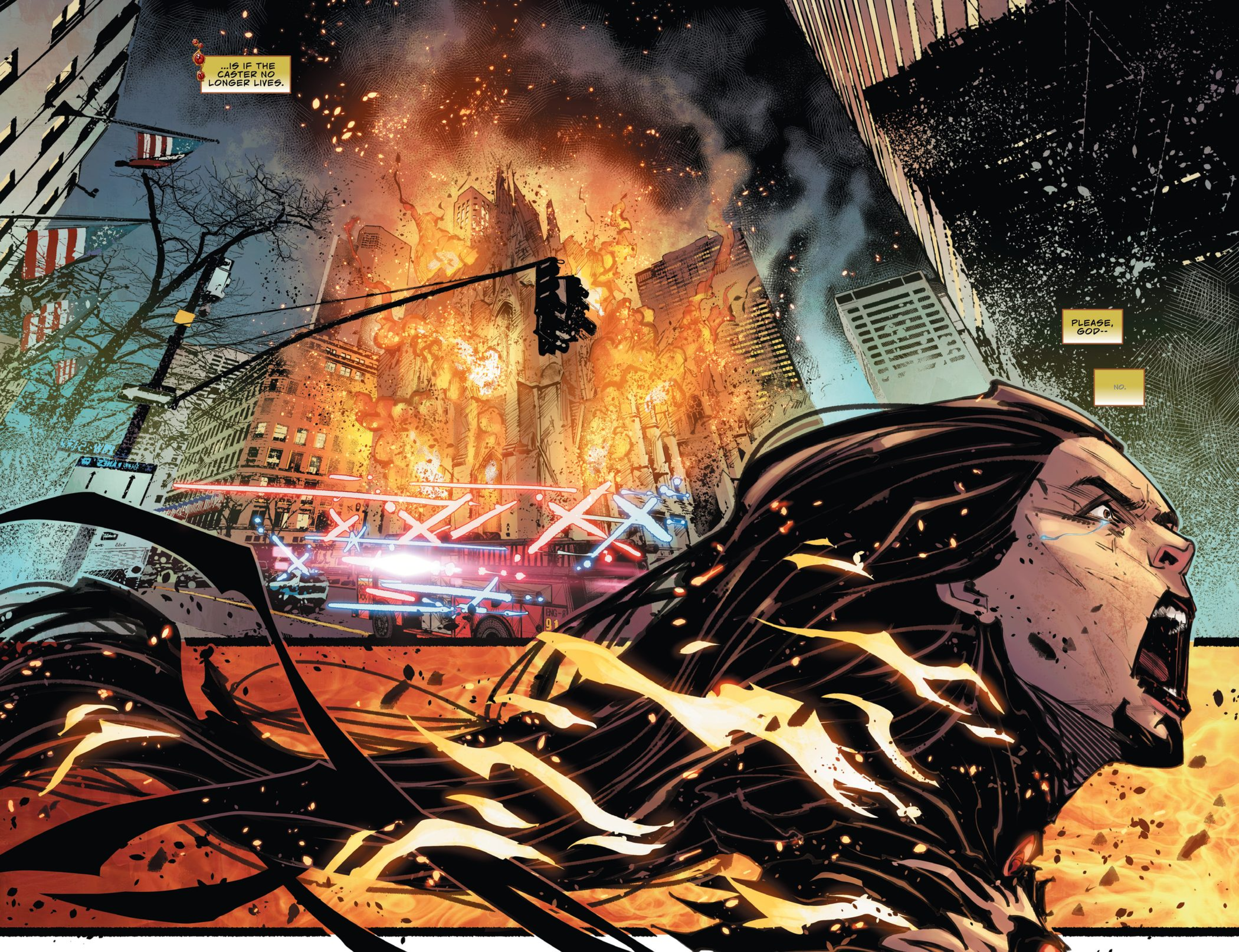
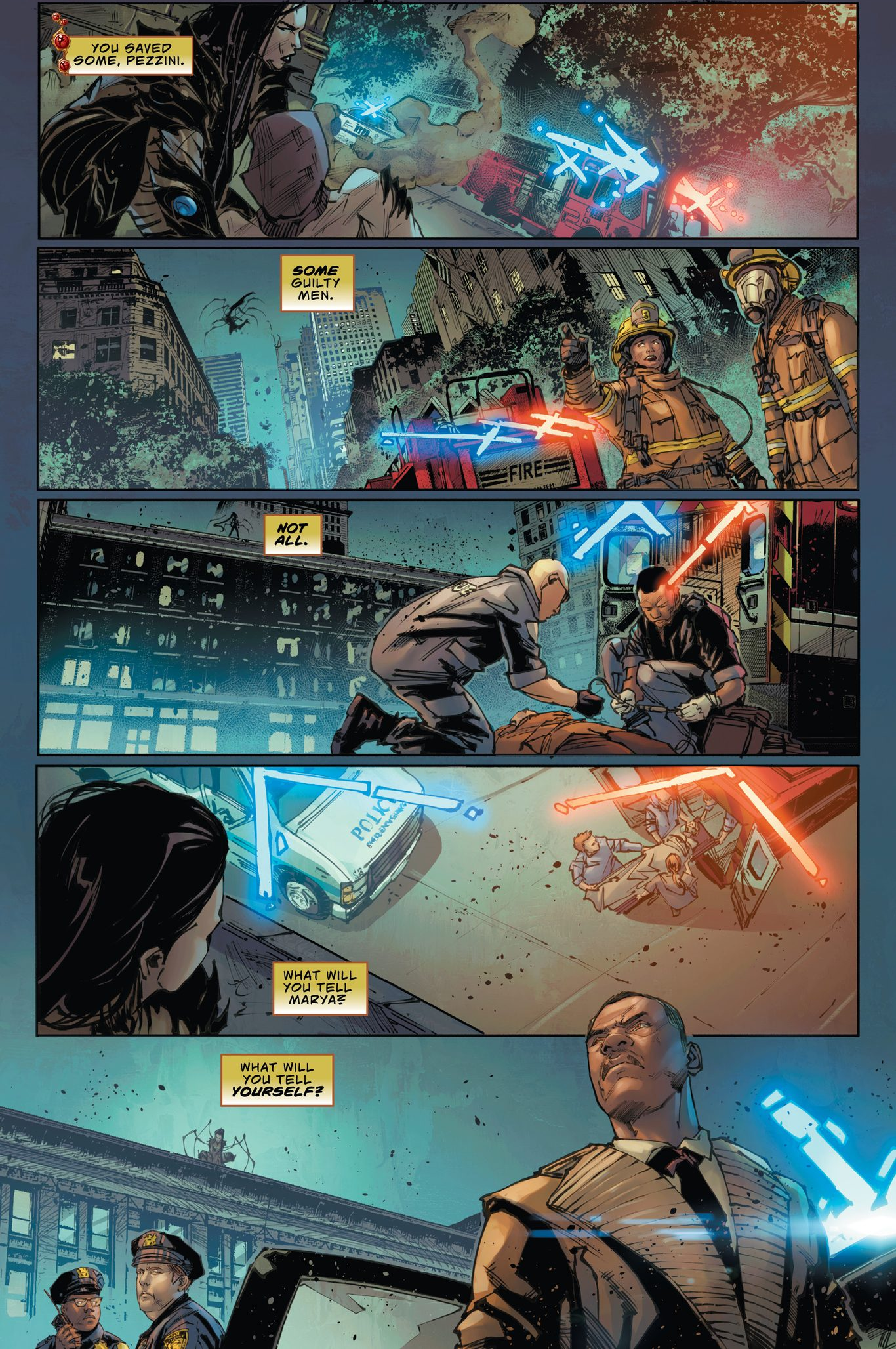

NEW YORK CITY.
ANNA!
DON'T DO THIS, DON'T ☠⚡★@ *DO* THIS--

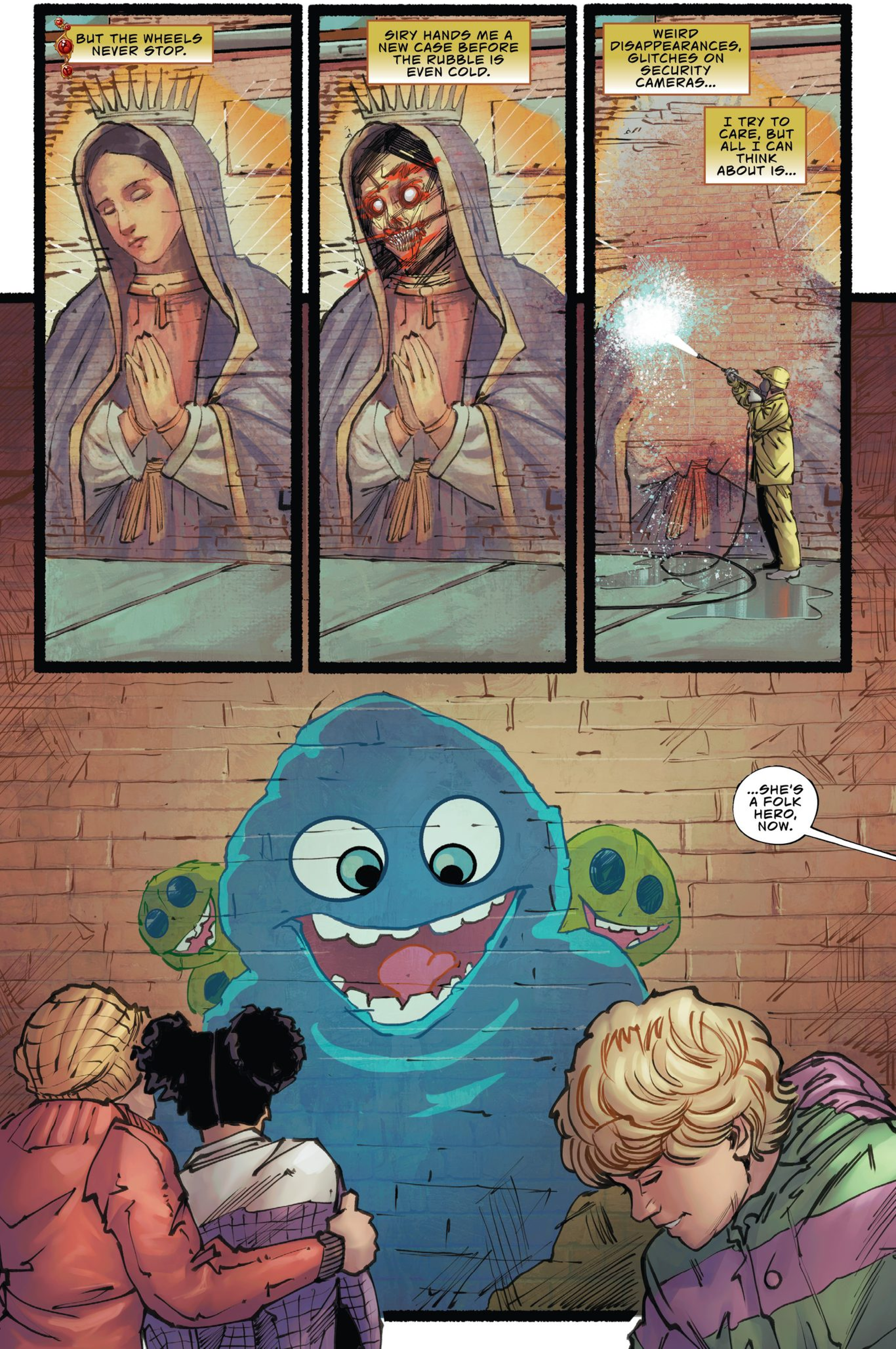

CRNCH
!
ANNA...
PLEASE, KID.
PLEASE DON'T GIVE UP ON ALL OF US.
FIGHT BACK--
UNPH!
ANNA!

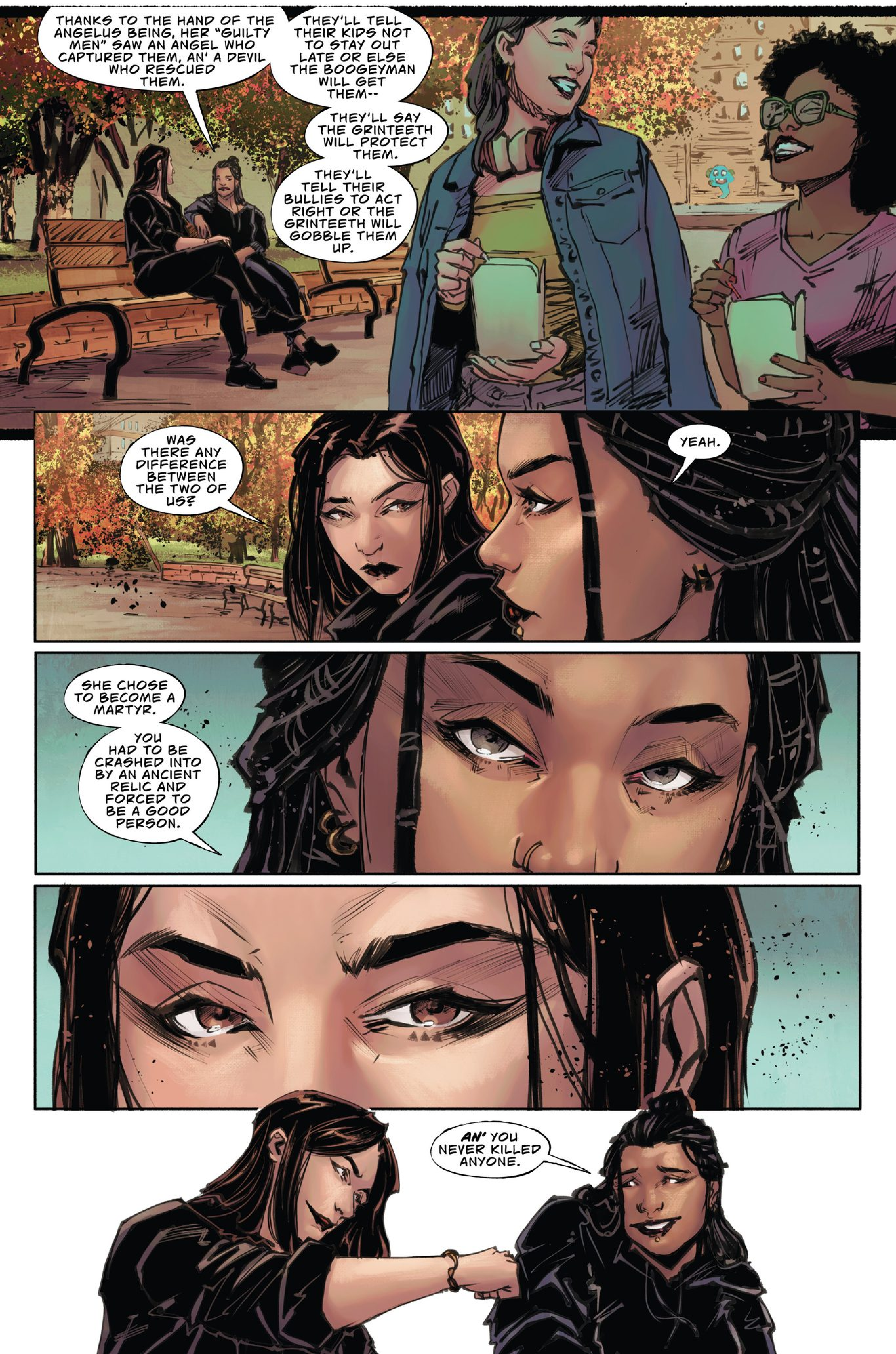

GRRRR...
...
THE GARGOYLES SHE CURSED ARE STILL COMING--

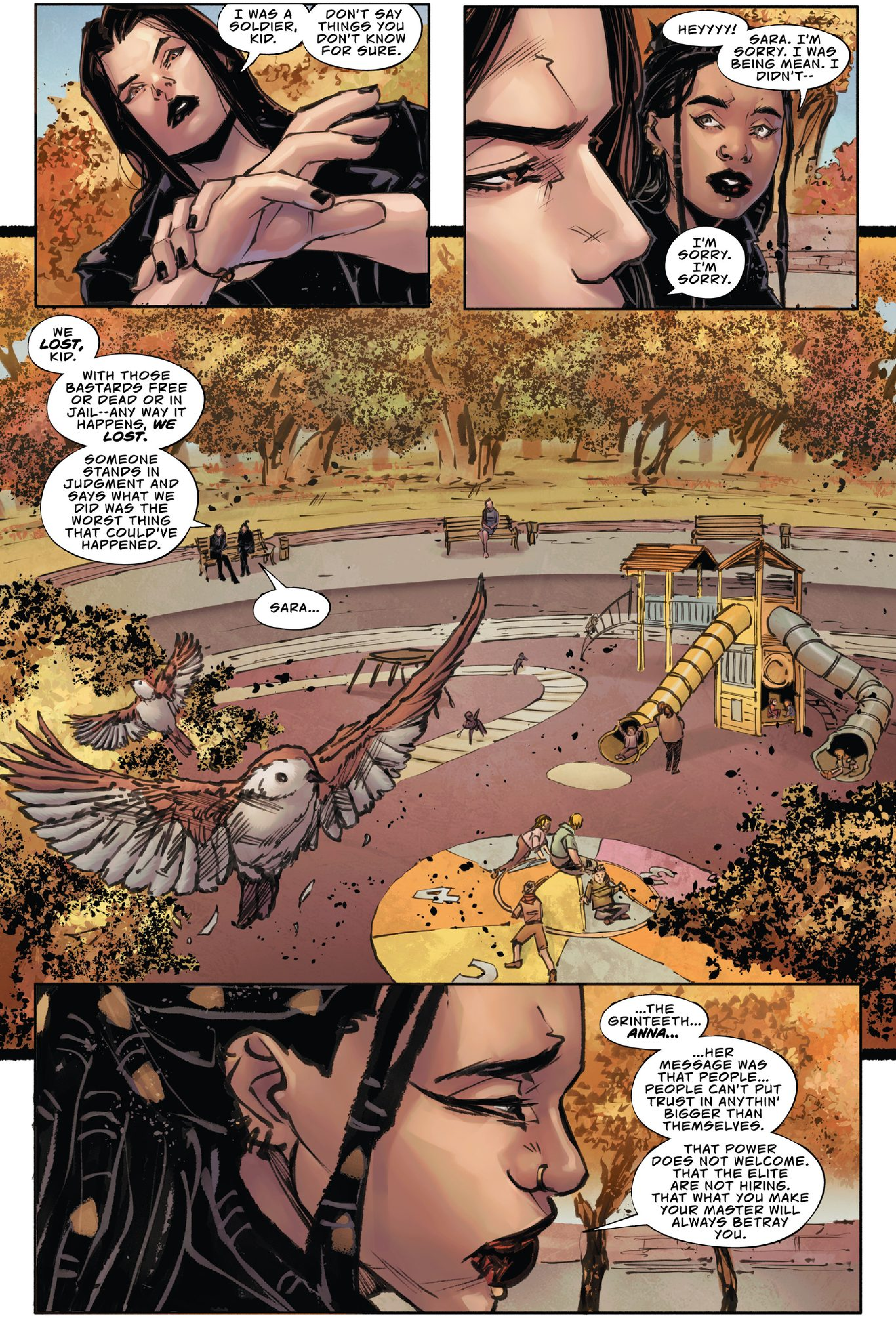

NO.
KRMMMBBLLLE
THE ONLY WAY THE CURSE IS ENDED...
BWHOOM

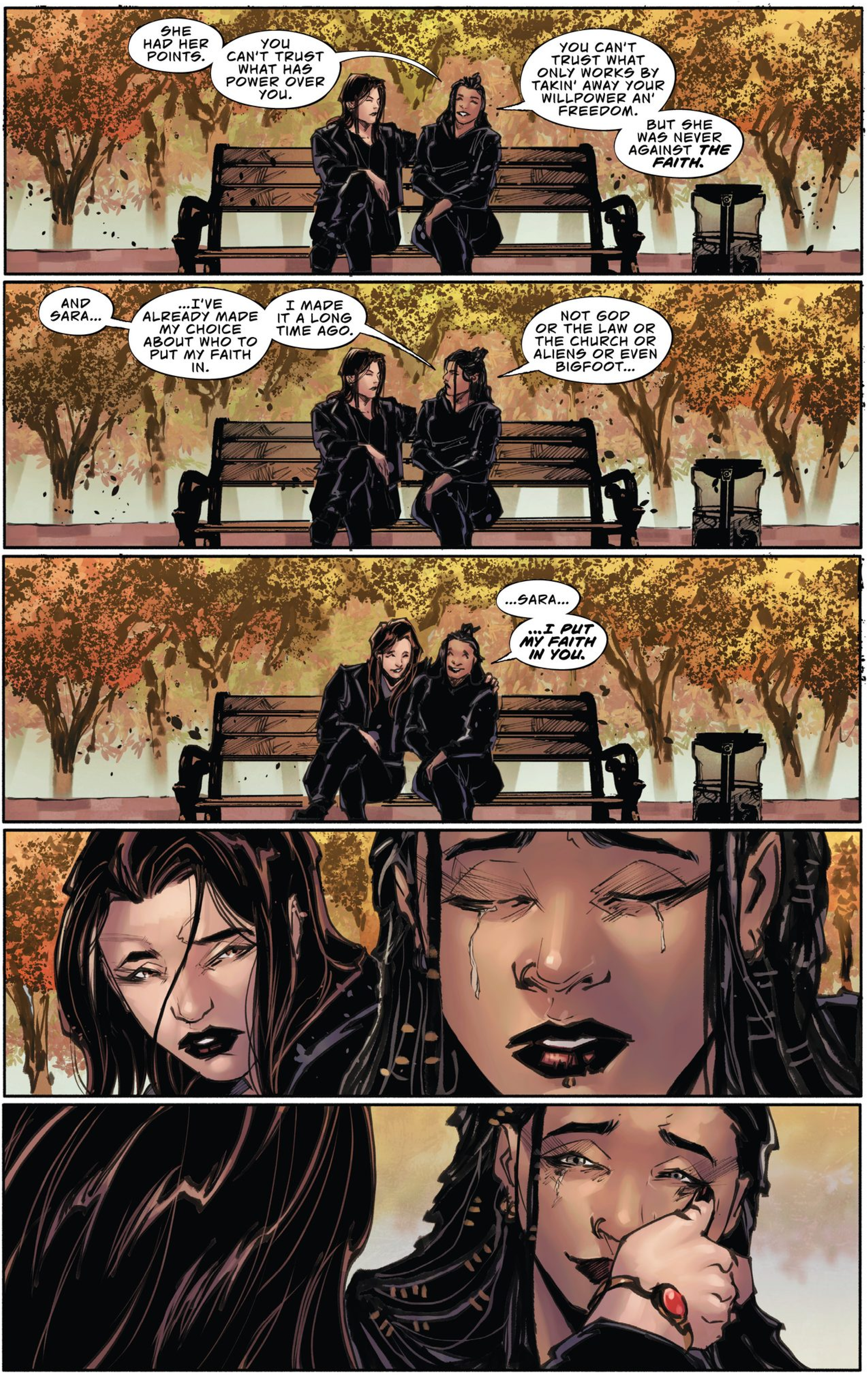

...IS IF THE CASTER NO LONGER LIVES.
PLEASE, GOD--
NO.

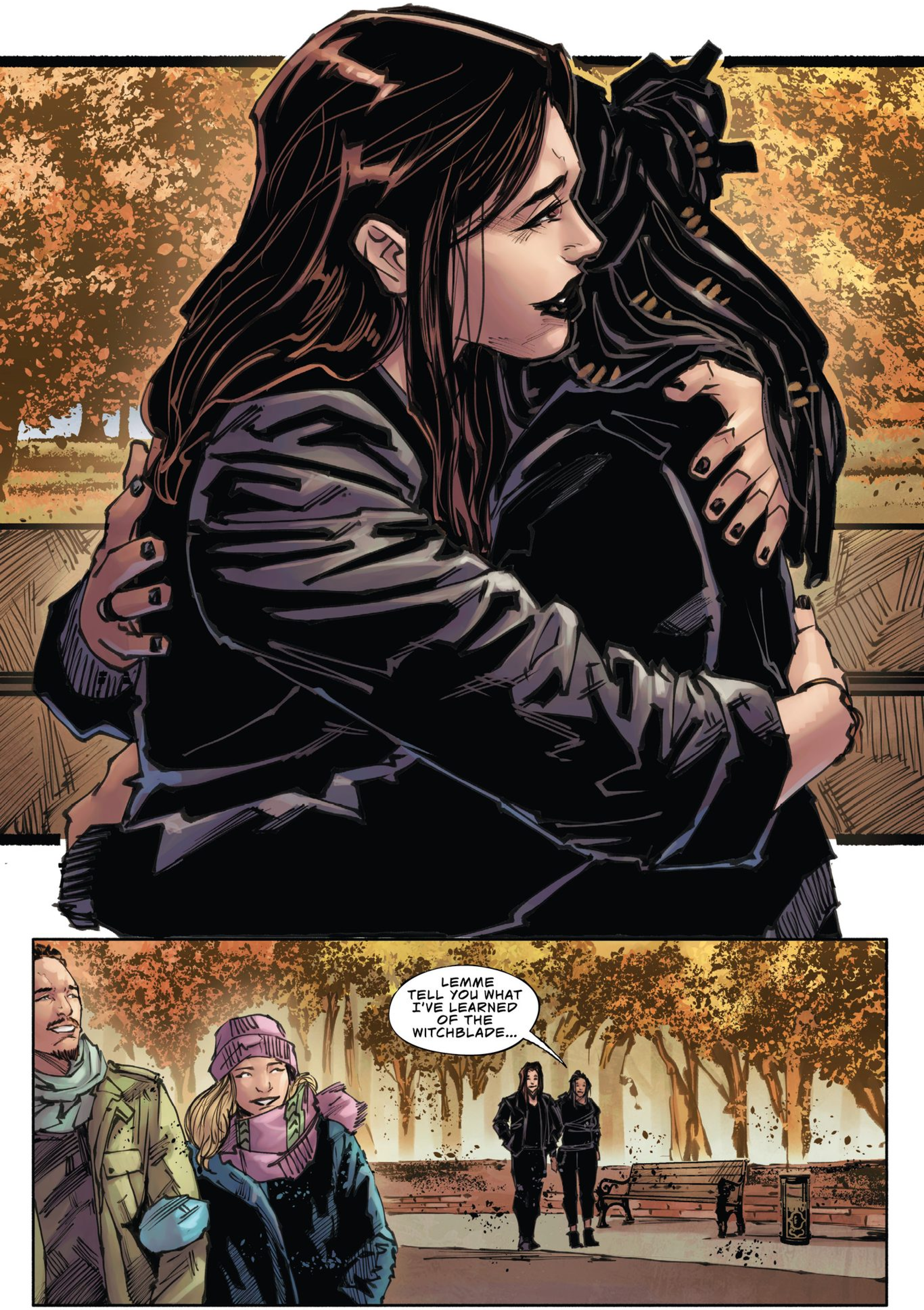

YOU SAVED SOME, PEZZINI.
SOME GUILTY MEN.
FIRE
NOT ALL.
POLICE
WHAT WILL YOU TELL MARYA?
WHAT WILL YOU TELL YOURSELF?

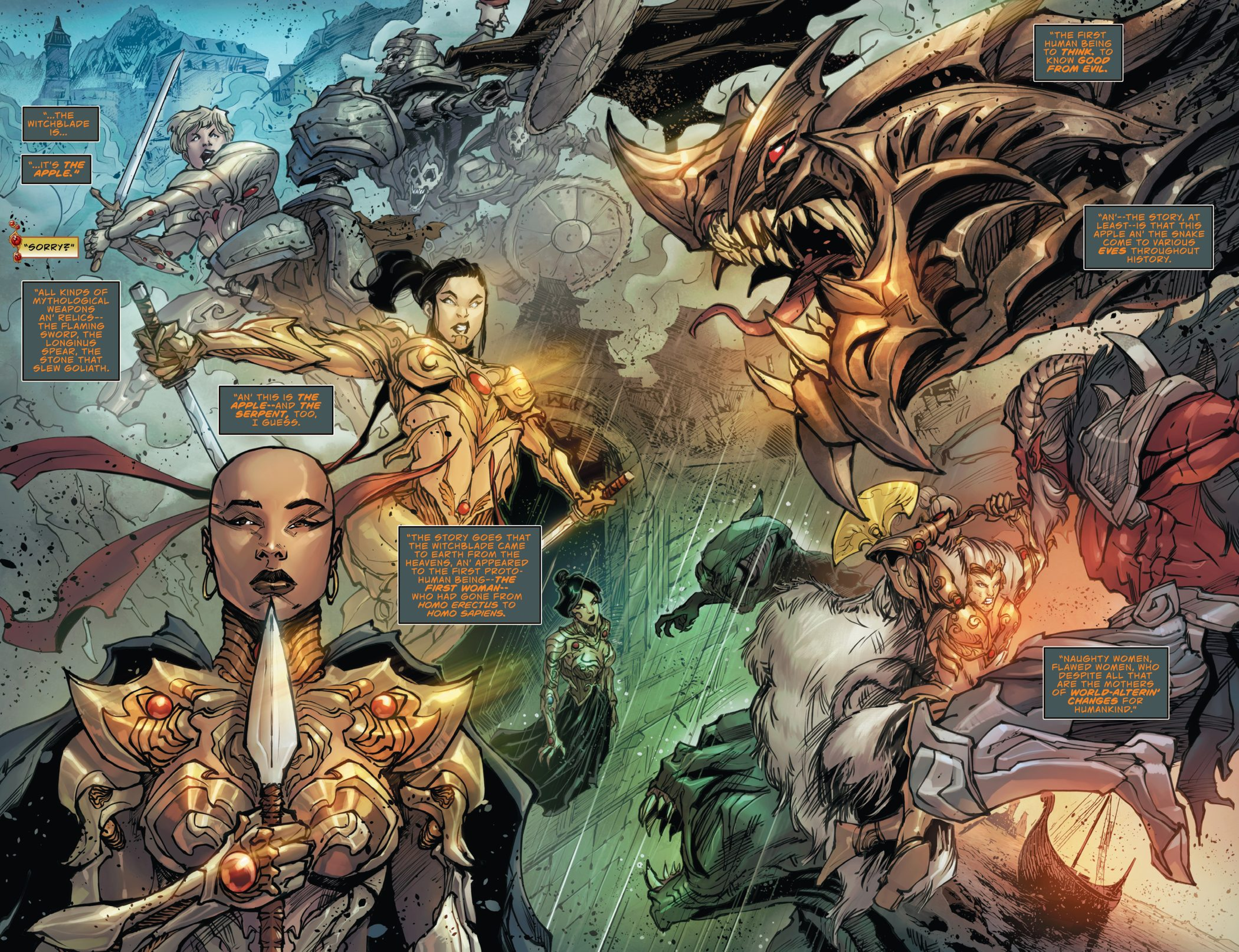

BUT THE WHEELS NEVER STOP.
SIRY HANDS ME A NEW CASE BEFORE THE RUBBLE IS EVEN COLD.
WEIRD DISAPPEARANCES, GLITCHES ON SECURITY CAMERAS...
I TRY TO CARE, BUT ALL I CAN THINK ABOUT IS...
...SHE'S A FOLK HERO, NOW.

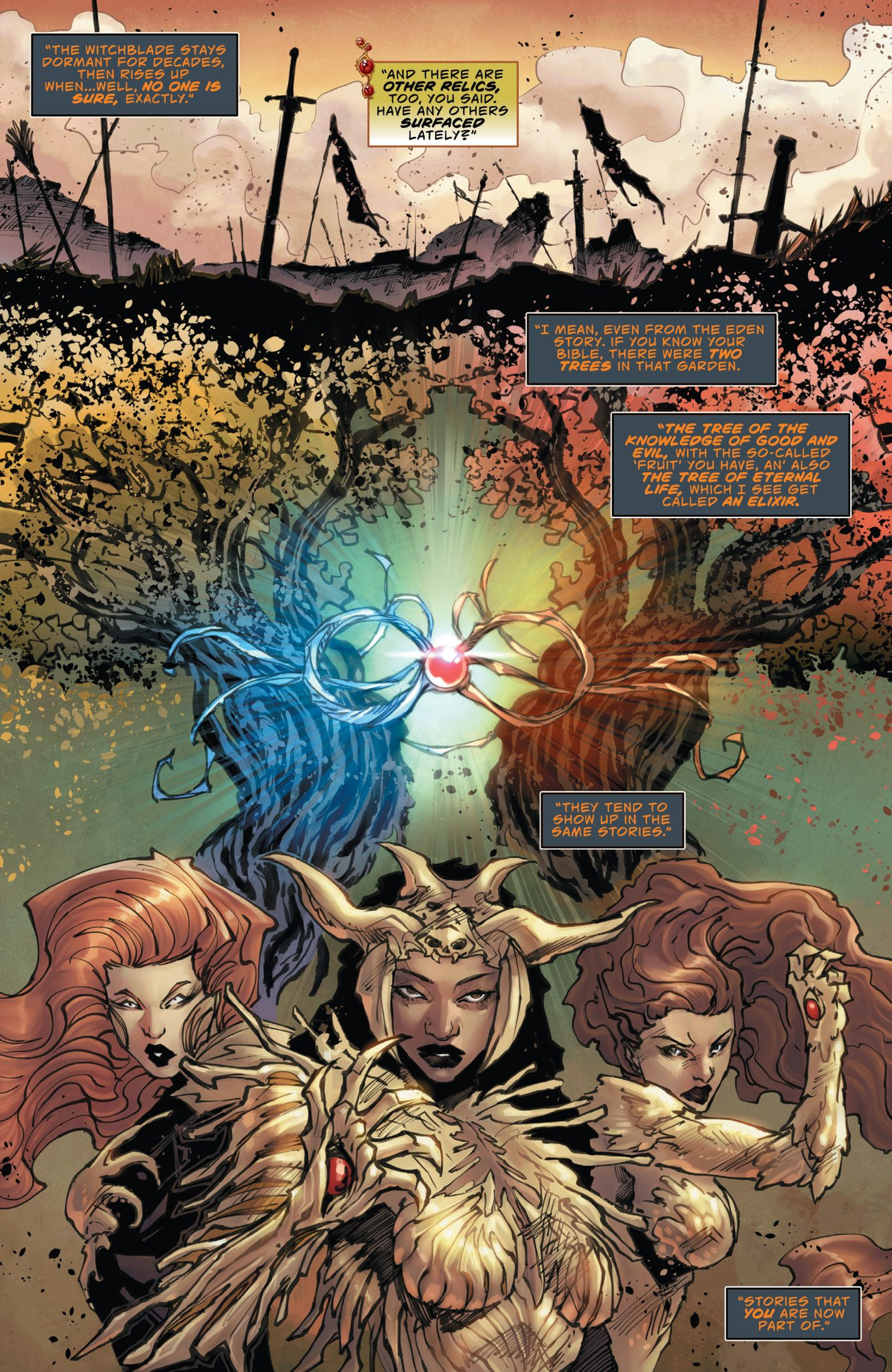

THANKS TO THE HAND OF THE ANGELUS BEING, HER "GUILTY MEN" SAW AN ANGEL WHO CAPTURED THEM, AN' A DEVIL WHO RESCUED THEM.
THEY'LL TELL THEIR KIDS NOT TO STAY OUT LATE OR ELSE THE BOOGEYMAN WILL GET THEM--
THEY'LL SAY THE GRINTEETH WILL PROTECT THEM.
THEY'LL TELL THEIR BULLIES TO ACT RIGHT OR THE GRINTEETH WILL GOBBLE THEM UP.
WAS THERE ANY DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE TWO OF US?
YEAH.
SHE CHOSE TO BECOME A MARTYR.
YOU HAD TO BE CRASHED INTO BY AN ANCIENT RELIC AND FORCED TO BE A GOOD PERSON.
AN' YOU NEVER KILLED ANYONE.

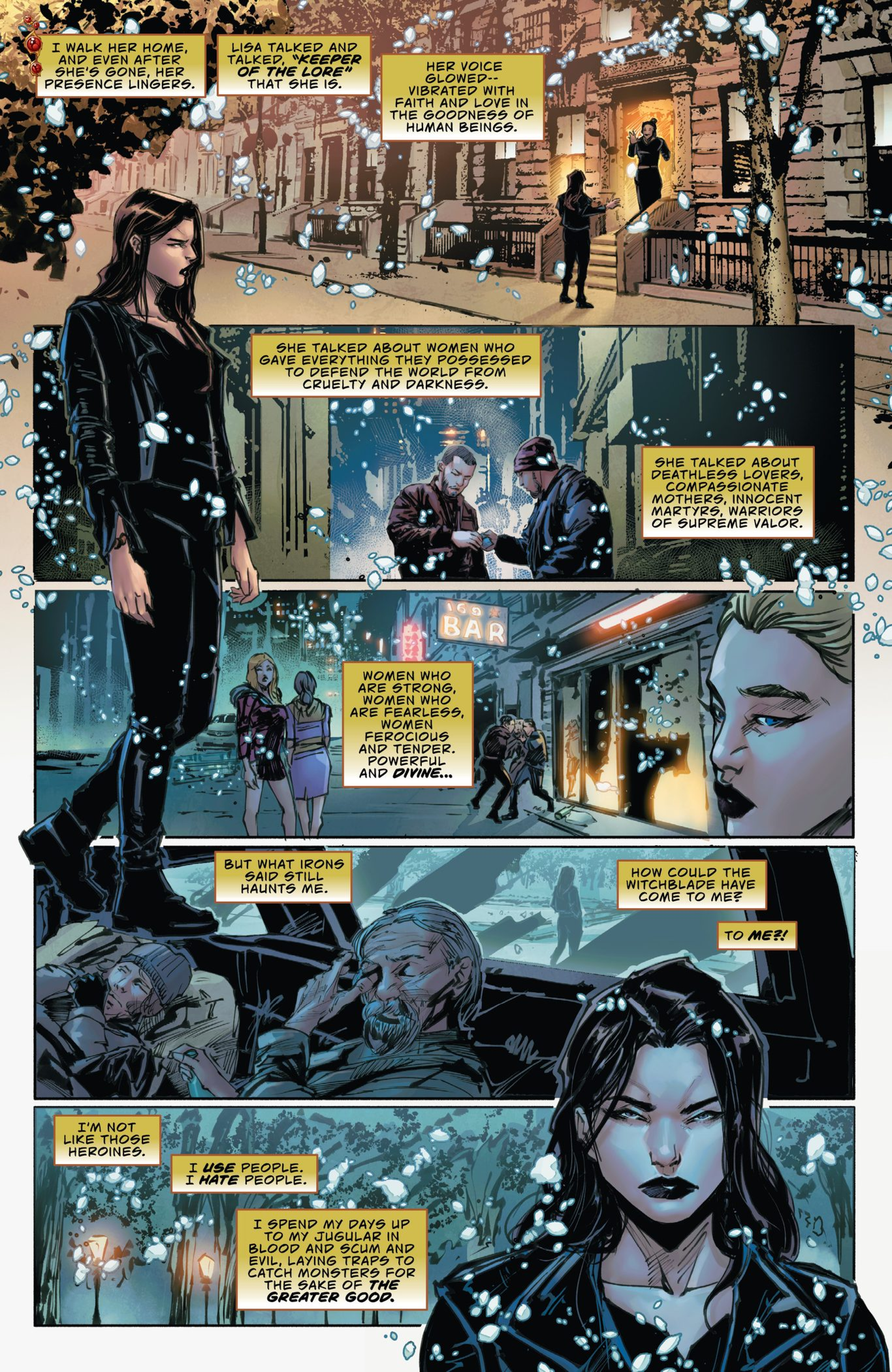

I WAS A SOLDIER, KID.
DON'T SAY THINGS YOU DON'T KNOW FOR SURE.
HEYYYY!
SARA. I'M SORRY. I WAS BEING MEAN. I DIDN'T--
I'M SORRY. I'M SORRY.
WE ***LOST,*** KID.
WITH THOSE BASTARDS FREE OR DEAD OR IN JAIL--ANY WAY IT HAPPENS, ***WE LOST.***
SOMEONE STANDS IN JUDGMENT AND SAYS WHAT WE DID WAS THE WORST THING THAT COULD'VE HAPPENED.
SARA...
...THE GRINTEETH... ***ANNA...***
...HER MESSAGE WAS THAT PEOPLE... PEOPLE CAN'T PUT TRUST IN ANYTHIN' BIGGER THAN THEMSELVES.
THAT POWER DOES NOT WELCOME. THAT THE ELITE ARE NOT HIRING. THAT WHAT YOU MAKE YOUR MASTER WILL ALWAYS BETRAY YOU.

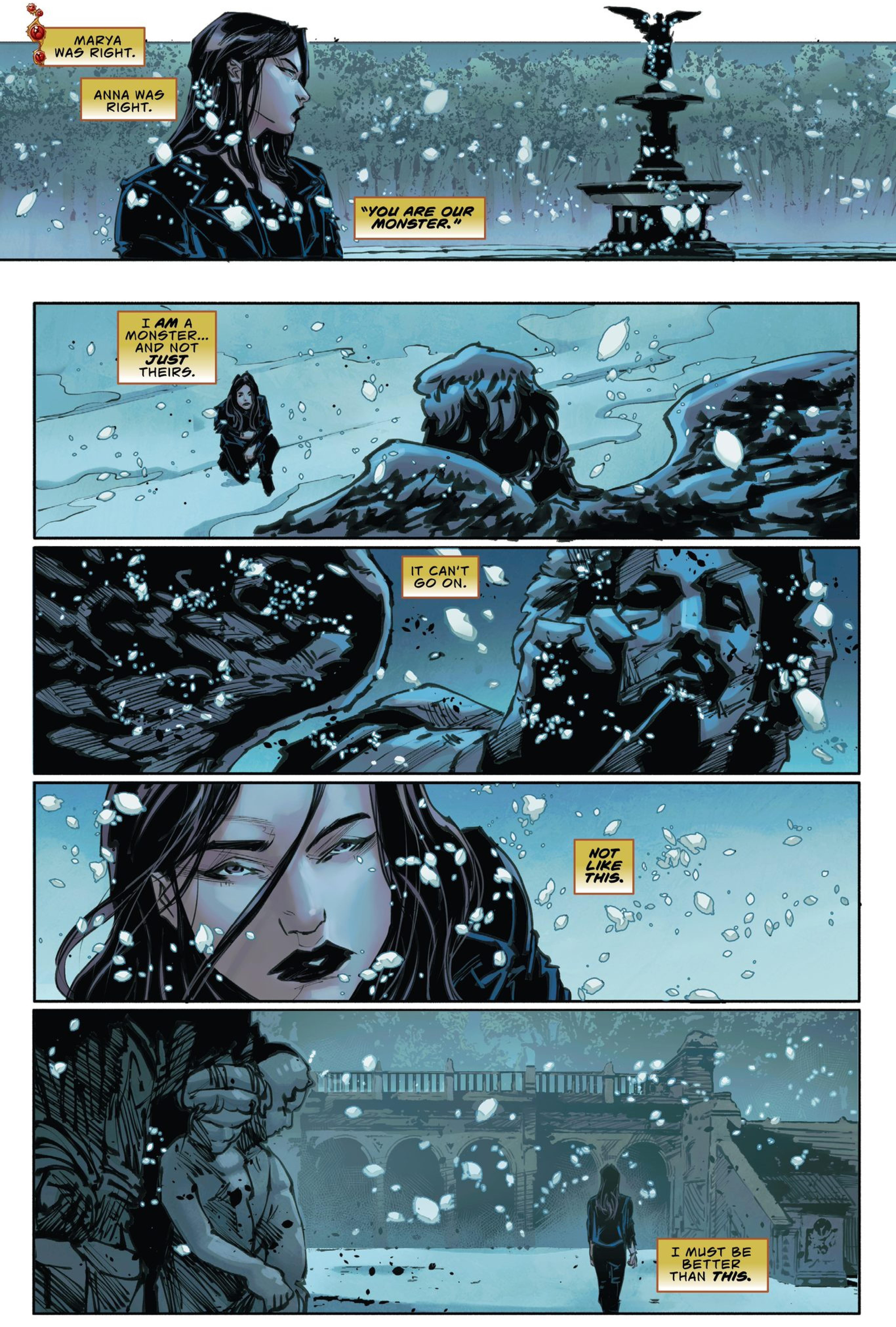

SHE HAD HER POINTS.
YOU CAN'T TRUST WHAT HAS POWER OVER YOU.
YOU CAN'T TRUST WHAT ONLY WORKS BY TAKIN' AWAY YOUR WILLPOWER AN' FREEDOM.
BUT SHE WAS NEVER AGAINST **THE FAITH.**
AND SARA...
...I'VE ALREADY MADE MY CHOICE ABOUT WHO TO PUT MY FAITH IN.
I MADE IT A LONG TIME AGO.
NOT GOD OR THE LAW OR THE CHURCH OR ALIENS OR EVEN BIGFOOT...
...SARA...
...I PUT MY FAITH IN YOU.

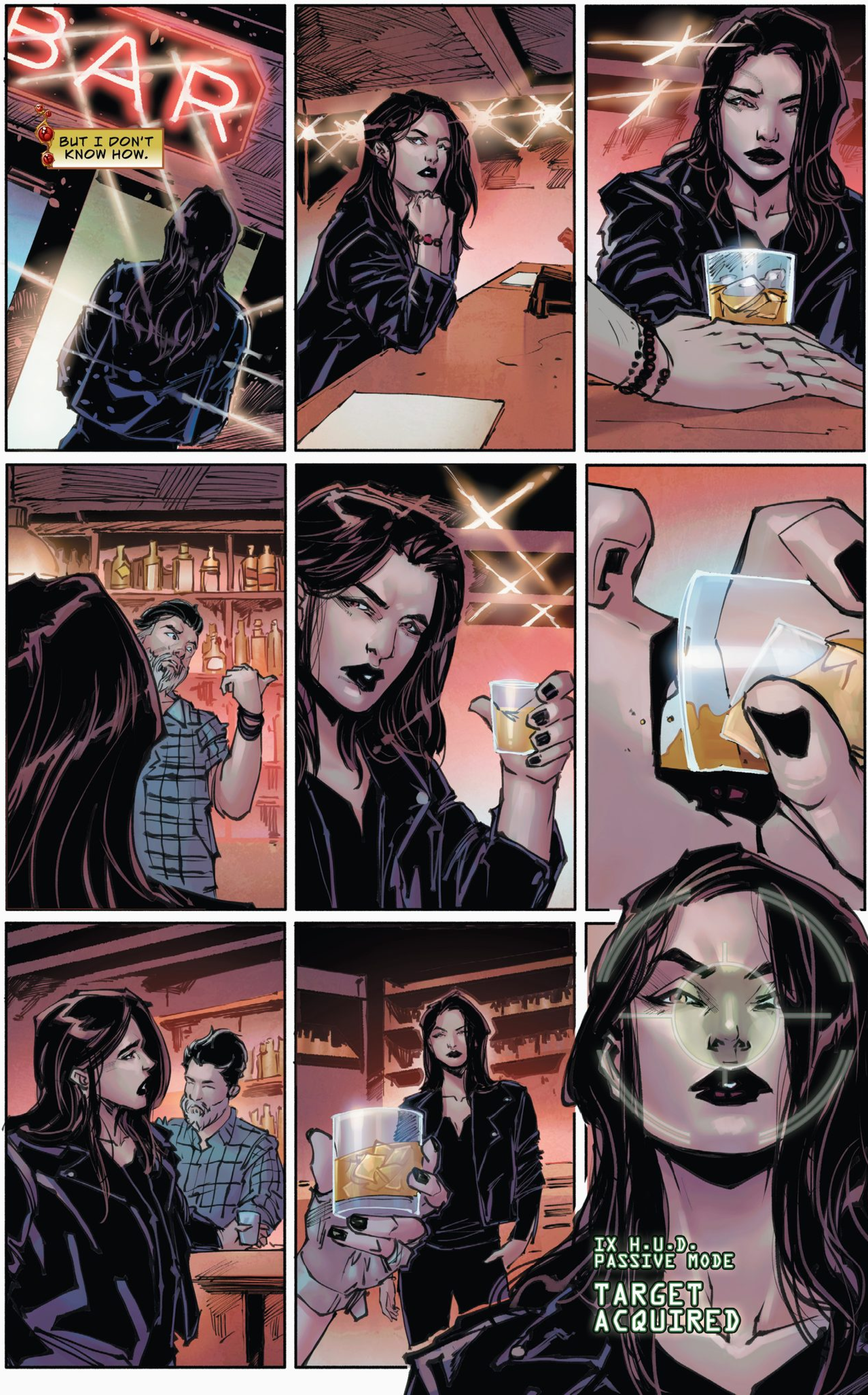

LEMME TELL YOU WHAT I'VE LEARNED OF THE WITCHBLADE...

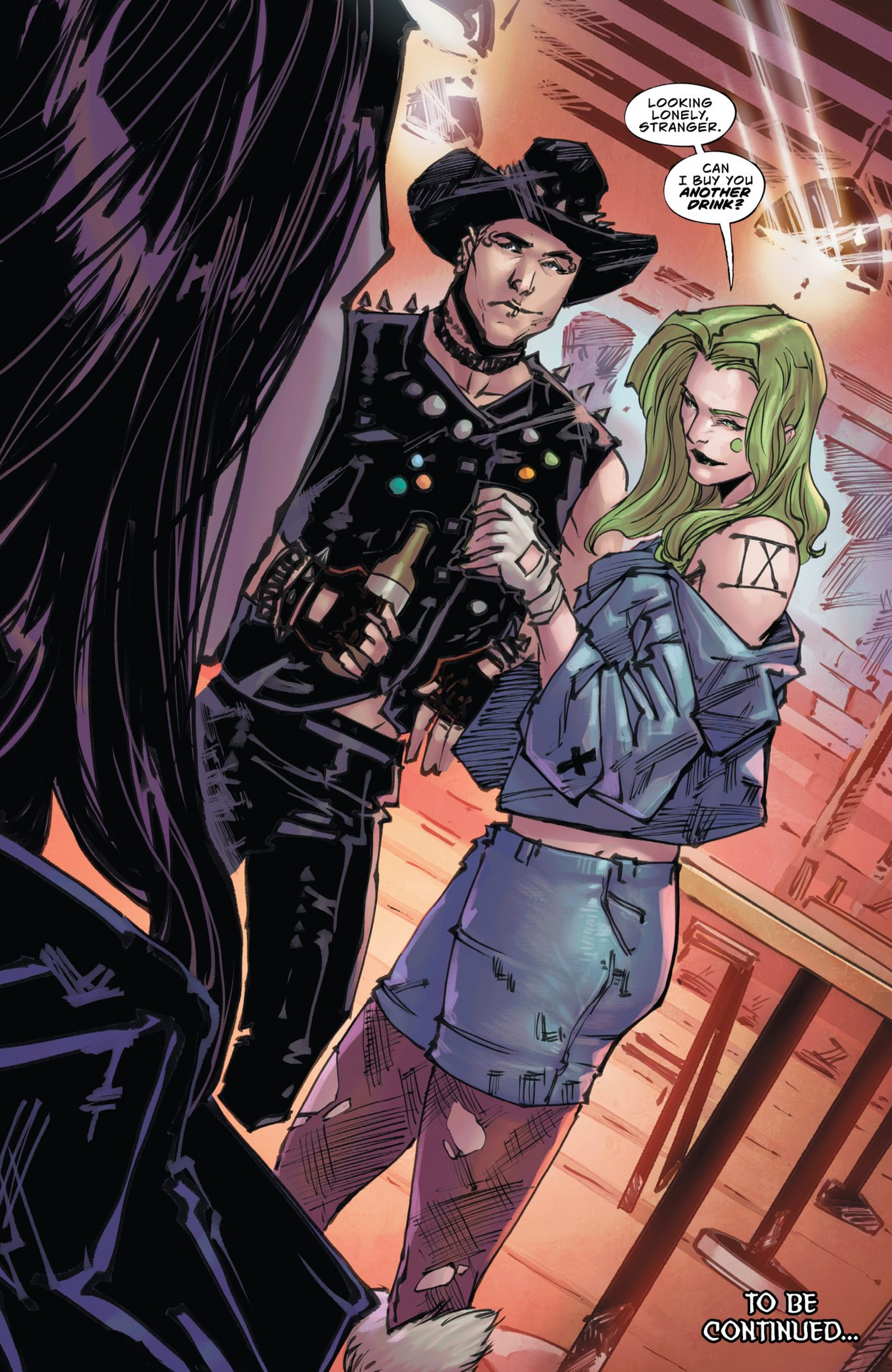

"...THE WITCHBLADE IS...
"...IT'S THE APPLE."
"SORRY?"
"ALL KINDS OF MYTHOLOGICAL WEAPONS AN' RELICS--THE FLAMING SWORD, THE LONGINUS SPEAR, THE STONE THAT SLEW GOLIATH.
"AN' THIS IS THE APPLE--AND THE SERPENT, TOO, I GUESS.
"THE STORY GOES THAT THE WITCHBLADE CAME TO EARTH FROM THE HEAVENS, AN' APPEARED TO THE FIRST PROTO-HUMAN BEING--THE FIRST WOMAN--WHO HAD GONE FROM HOMO ERECTUS TO HOMO SAPIENS.
"THE FIRST HUMAN BEING TO THINK, TO KNOW GOOD FROM EVIL.
"AN'--THE STORY, AT LEAST--IS THAT THIS APPLE AN' THE SNAKE COME TO VARIOUS EVES THROUGHOUT HISTORY.
"NAUGHTY WOMEN, FLAWED WOMEN, WHO DESPITE ALL THAT ARE THE MOTHERS OF WORLD-ALTERIN' CHANGES FOR HUMANKIND."


"THE WITCHBLADE STAYS DORMANT FOR DECADES, THEN RISES UP WHEN...WELL, ***NO ONE IS SURE,*** EXACTLY."
"AND THERE ARE ***OTHER RELICS,*** TOO, YOU SAID. HAVE ANY OTHERS ***SURFACED*** LATELY?"
"I MEAN, EVEN FROM THE EDEN STORY. IF YOU KNOW YOUR BIBLE, THERE WERE ***TWO TREES*** IN THAT GARDEN.
"***THE TREE OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD AND EVIL,*** WITH THE SO-CALLED 'FRUIT' YOU HAVE, AN' ALSO ***THE TREE OF ETERNAL LIFE,*** WHICH I SEE GET CALLED ***AN ELIXIR.***
"THEY TEND TO SHOW UP IN THE SAME STORIES."
"STORIES THAT ***YOU*** ARE NOW PART OF."


I WALK HER HOME, AND EVEN AFTER SHE'S GONE, HER PRESENCE LINGERS.
LISA TALKED AND TALKED, *"KEEPER OF THE LORE"* THAT SHE IS.
HER VOICE GLOWED--VIBRATED WITH FAITH AND LOVE IN THE GOODNESS OF HUMAN BEINGS.
SHE TALKED ABOUT WOMEN WHO GAVE EVERYTHING THEY POSSESSED TO DEFEND THE WORLD FROM CRUELTY AND DARKNESS.
SHE TALKED ABOUT DEATHLESS LOVERS, COMPASSIONATE MOTHERS, INNOCENT MARTYRS, WARRIORS OF SUPREME VALOR.
BAR
WOMEN WHO ARE STRONG, WOMEN WHO ARE FEARLESS, WOMEN FEROCIOUS AND TENDER. POWERFUL AND *DIVINE*...
BUT WHAT IRONS SAID STILL HAUNTS ME.
HOW COULD THE WITCHBLADE HAVE COME TO ME?
TO *ME?!*
I'M NOT LIKE THOSE HEROINES.
I *USE* PEOPLE. I *HATE* PEOPLE.
I SPEND MY DAYS UP TO MY JUGULAR IN BLOOD AND SCUM AND EVIL, LAYING TRAPS TO CATCH MONSTERS FOR THE SAKE OF *THE GREATER GOOD.*

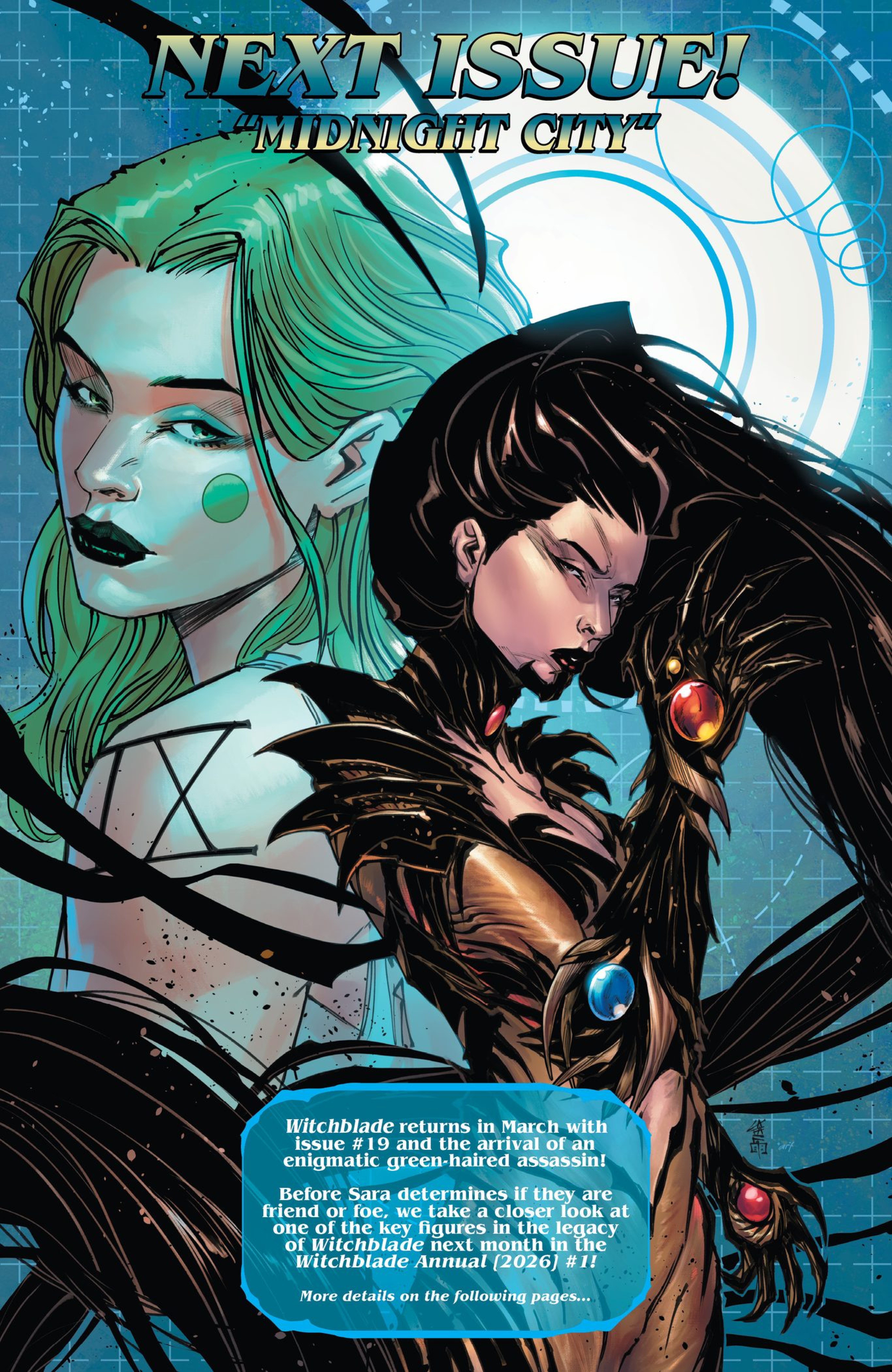

MARYA WAS RIGHT.
ANNA WAS RIGHT.
"YOU ARE OUR MONSTER."
I AM A MONSTER... AND NOT JUST THEIRS.
IT CAN'T GO ON.
NOT LIKE THIS.
I MUST BE BETTER THAN THIS.


BAR
BUT I DON'T KNOW HOW.
IX H.U.D. PASSIVE MODE
TARGET ACQUIRED


LOOKING LONELY, STRANGER.
CAN I BUY YOU **ANOTHER DRINK?**
IX
TO BE CONTINUED...

NEXT ISSUE!

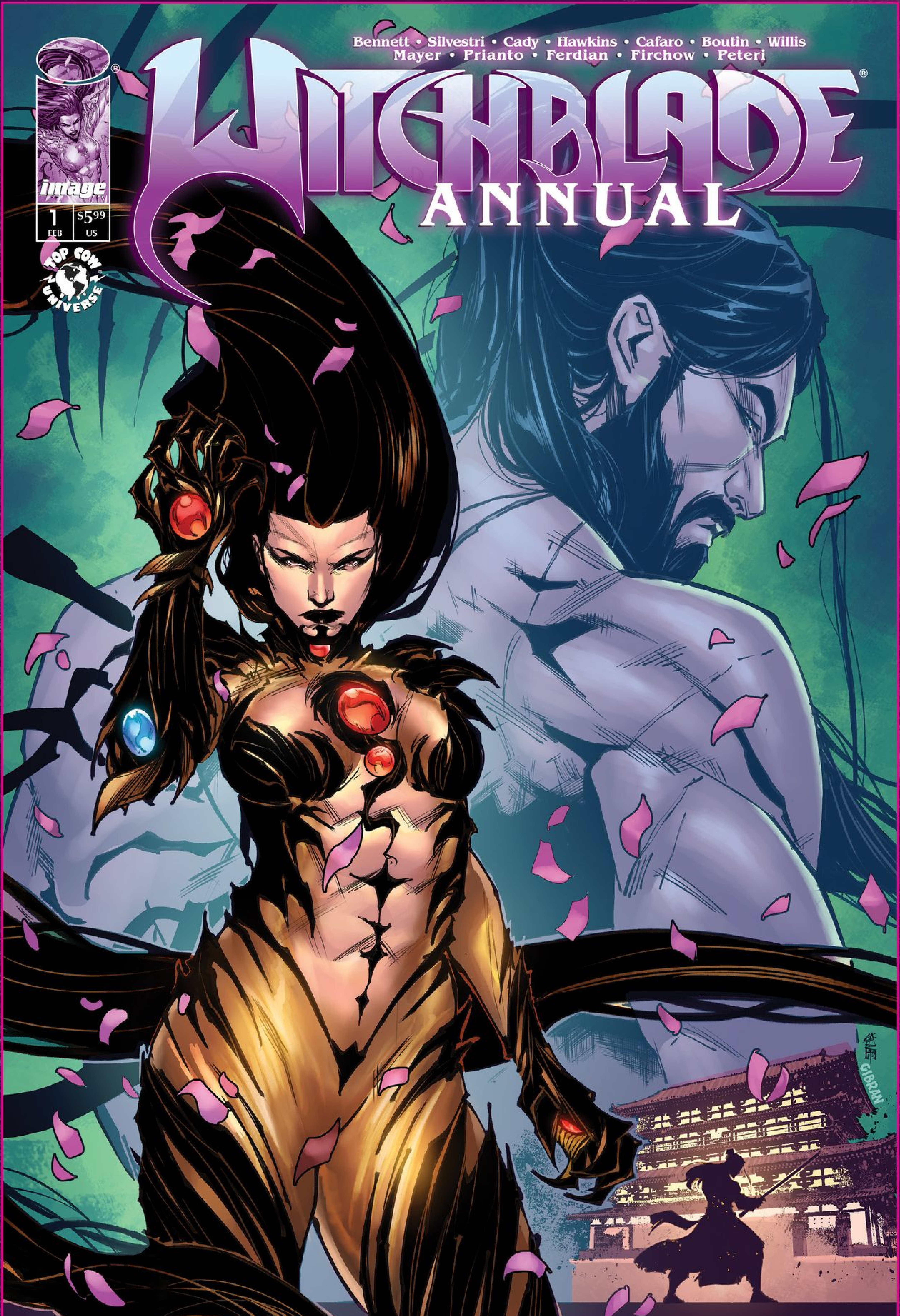
"MIDNIGHT CITY"



Witchblade returns in March with issue #19 and the arrival of an enigmatic green-haired assassin!

Before Sara determines if they are friend or foe, we take a closer look at one of the key figures in the legacy of *Witchblade* next month in the *Witchblade Annual (2026) #1!*

More details on the following pages...


Bennett • Silvestri • Cady • Hawkins • Cafaro • Boutin • Willis
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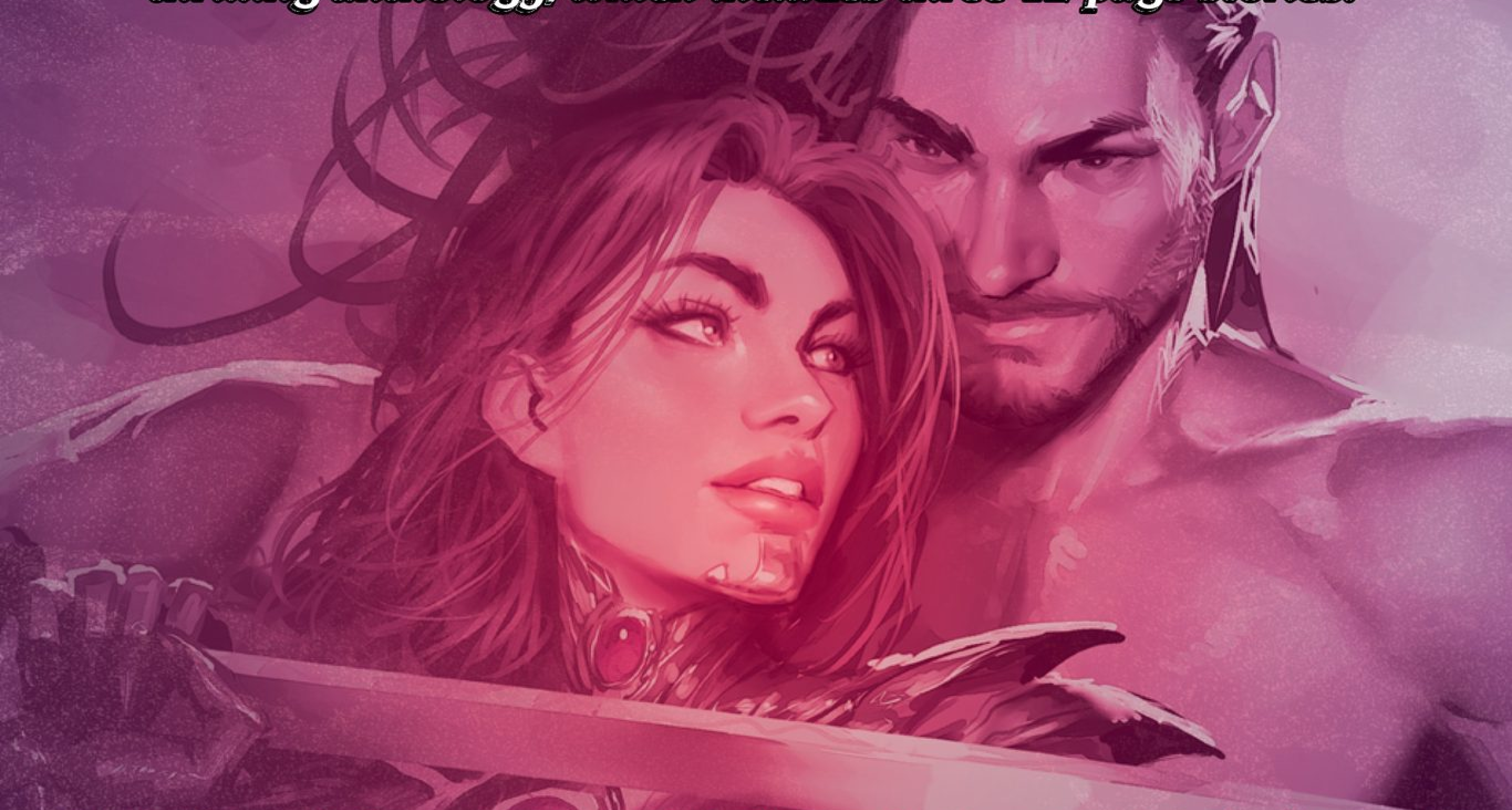
Cover A by Giuseppe Cafaro, Gibran Ferdian Fully Orderable

Ian Nottingham takes center stage in this thrilling anthology, which includes three 12-page stories!



Set before, during, and after Ian's time with Sara Pezzini. Explore not only Ian's training and adventures in service to Kenneth Irons, but also the tragedy that defined his life - and how far he's willing to go to reclaim his lost love. Learn why Ian betrayed Sara...and what lies in store for their future. Plus - the secrets of the Sickle Key!

WITCHBLADE
ANNUAL

Cover B by
Stjepan Sejic
Fully Orderable

Cover C by
Giuseppe Cafaro, Gibran Ferdian
1:10/Virgin

Cover D by
Giuseppe Cafaro
1:25/Virgin/ Line Art

Cover E by
Stjepan Sejic
1:50/Virgin

WITCHBLADE ANNUAL (2026) #1

WRITERS: Marguerite Bennett, Marc Silvestri, Ryan Cady, Matt Hawkins
ARTISTS: Giuseppe Cafaro, Patrick Boutin, Robert Willis, J.P. Mayer
COLORISTS: Arif Prianto, Gibran Ferdian, Steve Firchow
LETTERER: Troy Peteri

In-Stores February 11 / 48 PAGES + COVERS / Full Color / $5.99

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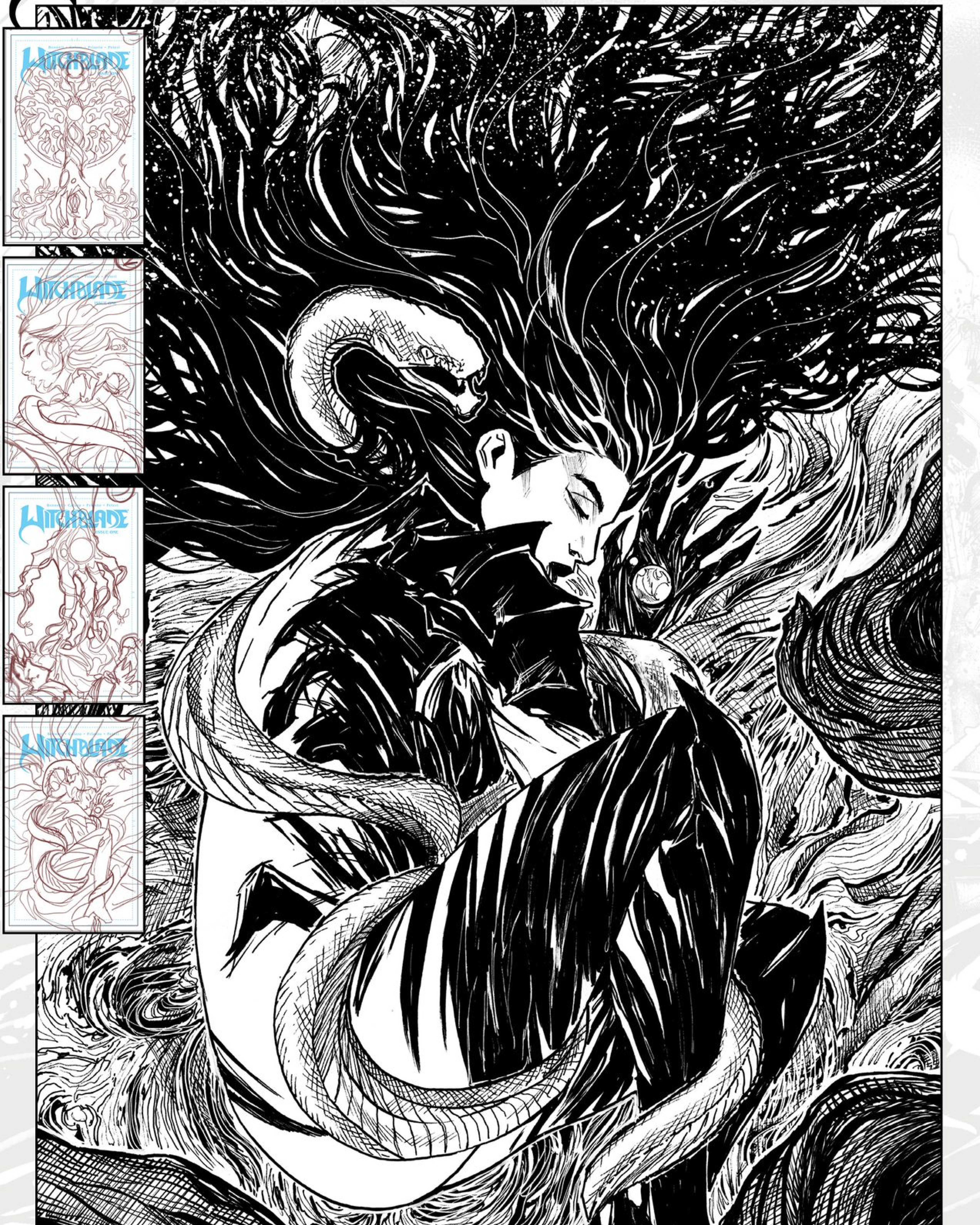
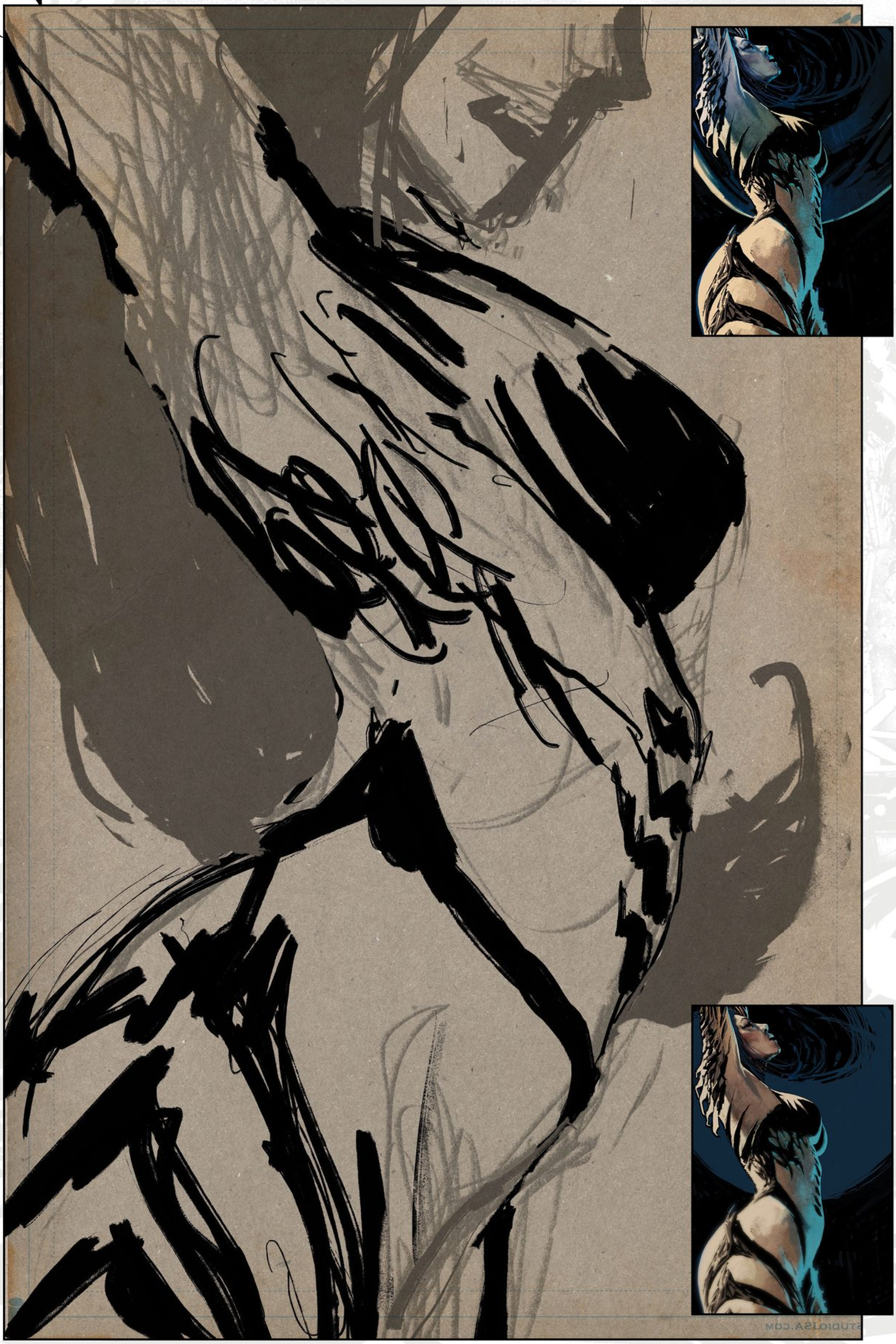
Witchblade #18 Gallery • Cover A Process

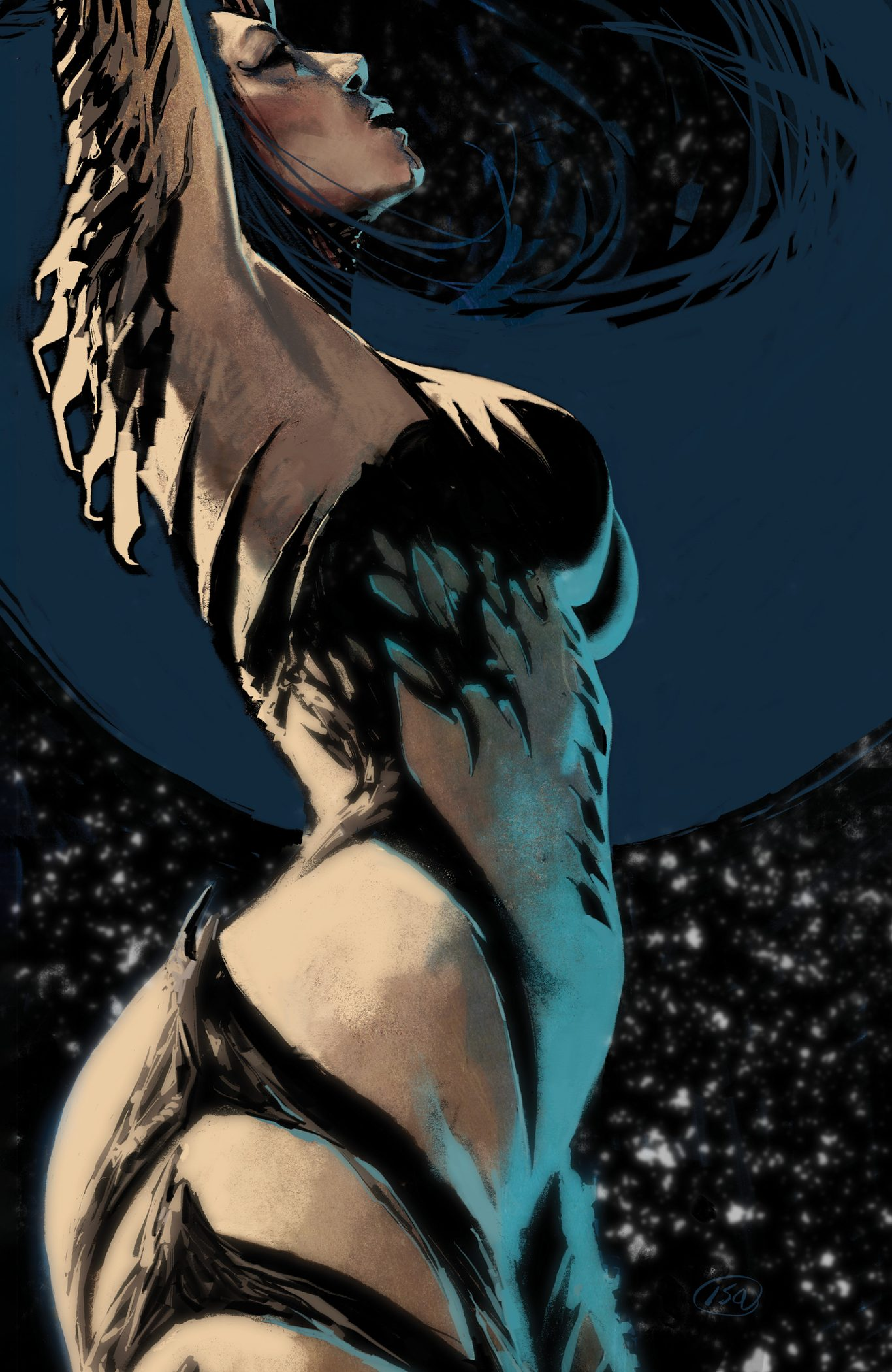


Witchblade #18, Cover A, process from thumbnail, line art to colors
Art by **Giuseppe Cafaro** and **Arif Prianto**

WITCHBLADE #18 Gallery • Cover B Process

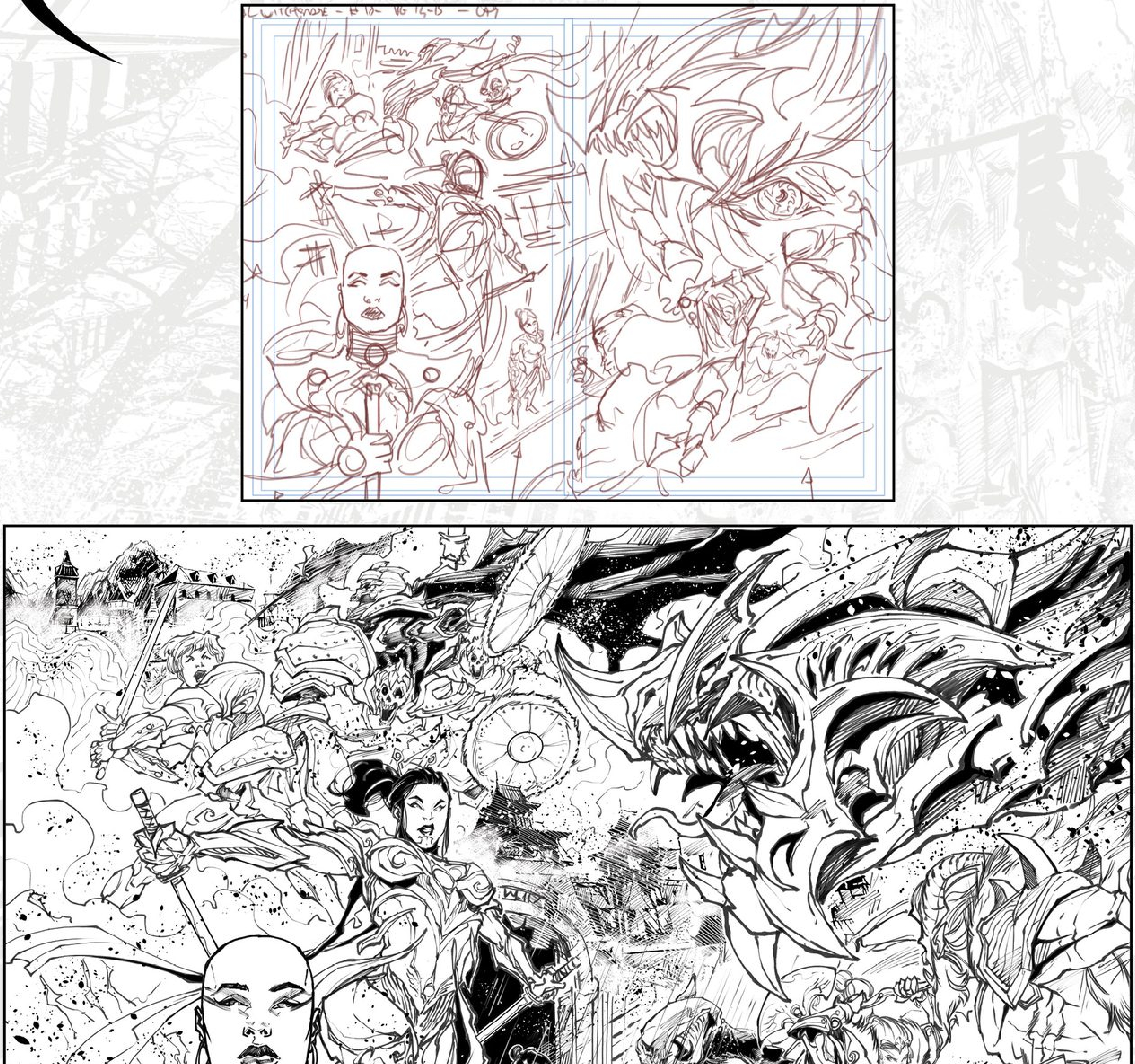


Witchblade #18, Cover B, process from thumbnail, color comps, to final
Art by **Jason Shawn Alexander**

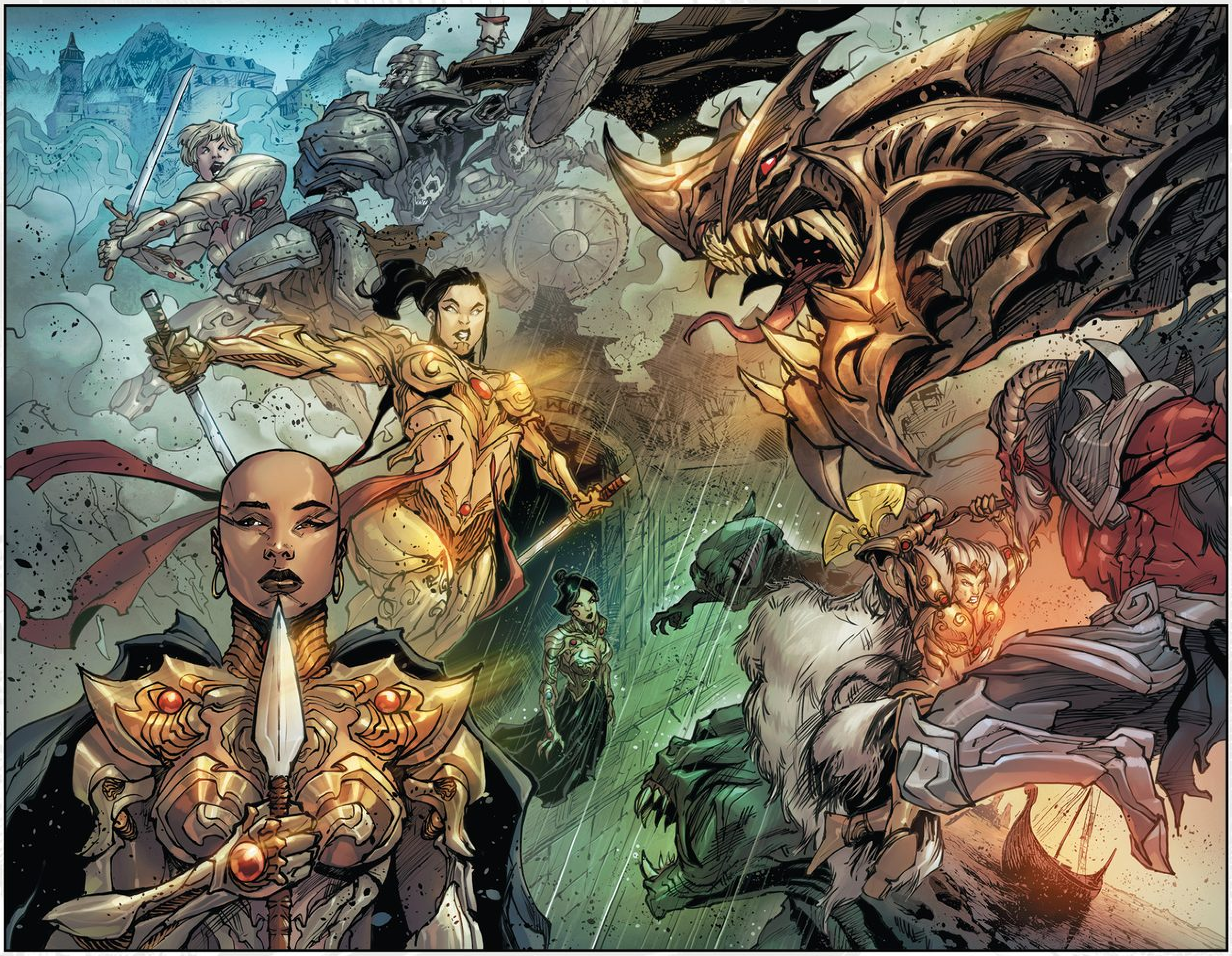


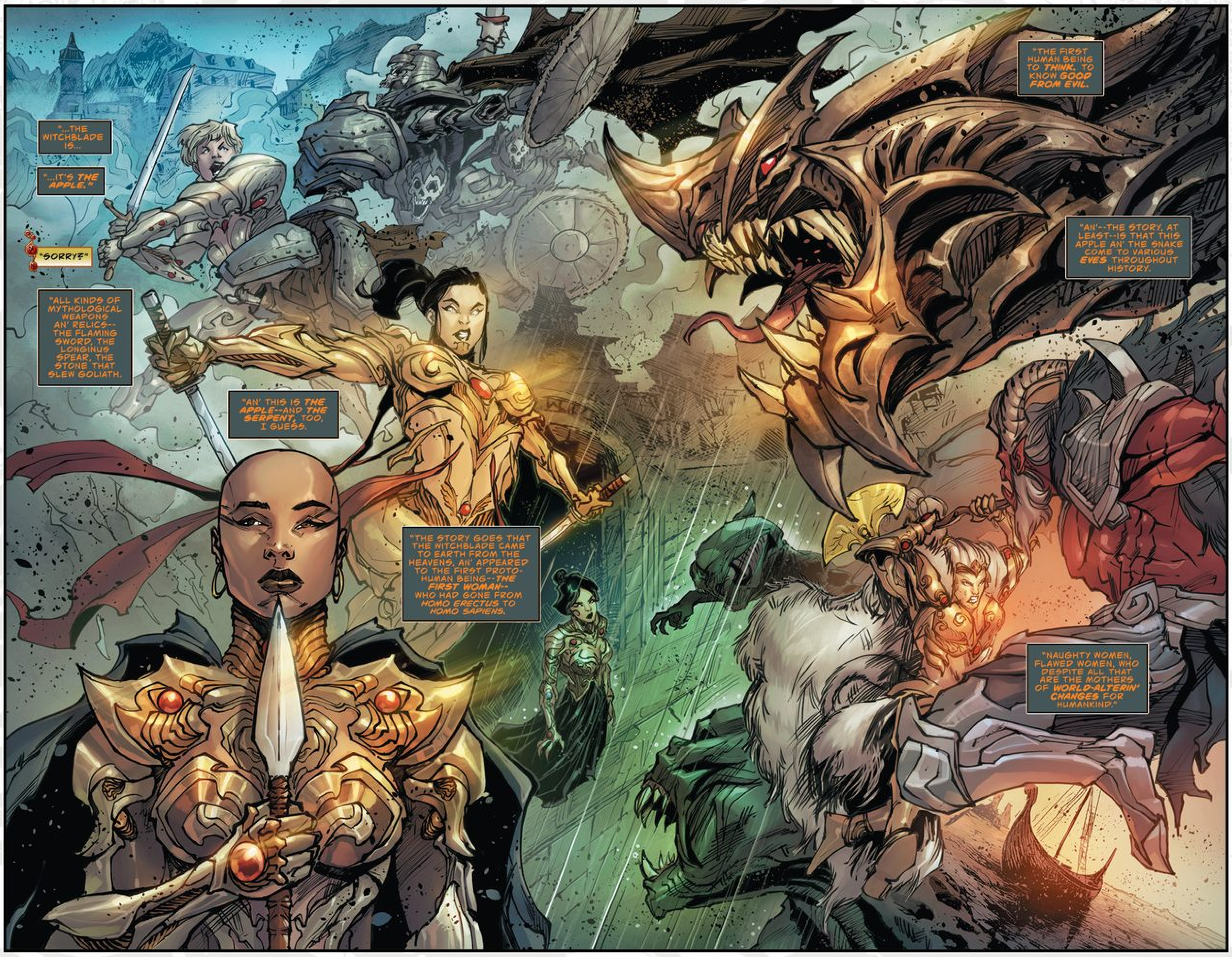
WITCHBLADE®

#18 Gallery • Page Process



Witchblade #18, pages 14-15, process from thumbnails, line art, colors to letters

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The Top Cow Store celebrates the return of THE DARKNESS!
Every month, new stock will be added, including exclusives, merchandise, collectibles, and more.

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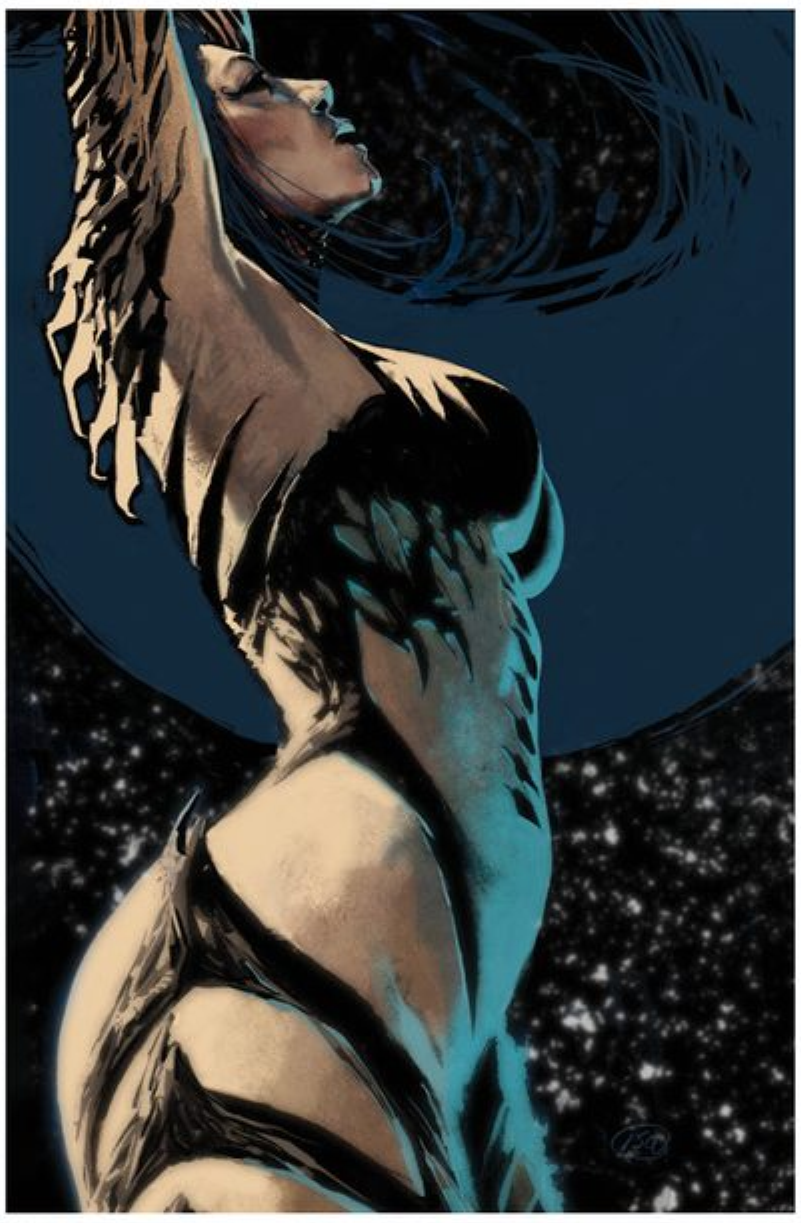
New $25 Top Cow Store Exclusive Variants!

The Darkness #2 **[2025]**
cover by **Jason Shawn Alexander**



Witchblade #18 [2024]
cover by **Jason Shawn Alexander**

The Darkness #1 **[2025]**
Exclusive Variants!

This month at the Top Cow Store, we have a pair of Spot Foil variants by **Jason Shawn Alexander.**

PLUS! To celebrate the first printing of *The Darkness #1*, we created four, first printing, Top Cow Store Exclusives. Originally slated for monthly release from December to March, due to overwhelming demand, they are all available now! Foil variants by
Marc Silvestri, Ed Benes,
with **Arif Prianto** and **David Mack**
Plus...A Blank Sketch cover with fluorescent ink!

AND MORE AT THE TOP COW STORE!

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Marc Silvestri • Raymond Gay
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The Darkness®
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The brutal conflict between the Franchettis and the Russians escalates into a full-on gang war, as Jackie Estacado struggles to make sense of his inheritance - the chaotic power known as the Darkness! But Kalashnikov-toting gangsters are the least of Jackie's worries. The Angelus has set her sights on him, and her warriors will stop at nothing to destroy the Darkness once and for all...

The saga that explores the lives of a bunch of B.D.S.M. fetishists trying to figure out the balance between life, love and kink and succeeding at it one failure at a time.

Sunstone™
Volume 1
Stjepan Sejic

SUNSTONE, VOL. 1 TP (NEW EDITION)

From critically acclaimed creator **Stjepan Šejić** *(Death Vigil, Ravine, Aphrodite IX, Witchblade)* comes *Sunstone,* a love story like no other. It is now presented in a 6" by 9" edition featuring all-new cover art by Stjepan Šejić!

Top Cow and Image Comics will be releasing new 6" x 9" trim size editions of the bestselling graphic novel series every other month starting this February!

February 11 / 128 PAGES / FC / M MATURE (AGES 18+) / $9.99

GENRE: LGBTQ+ | ROMANCE | EROTICA

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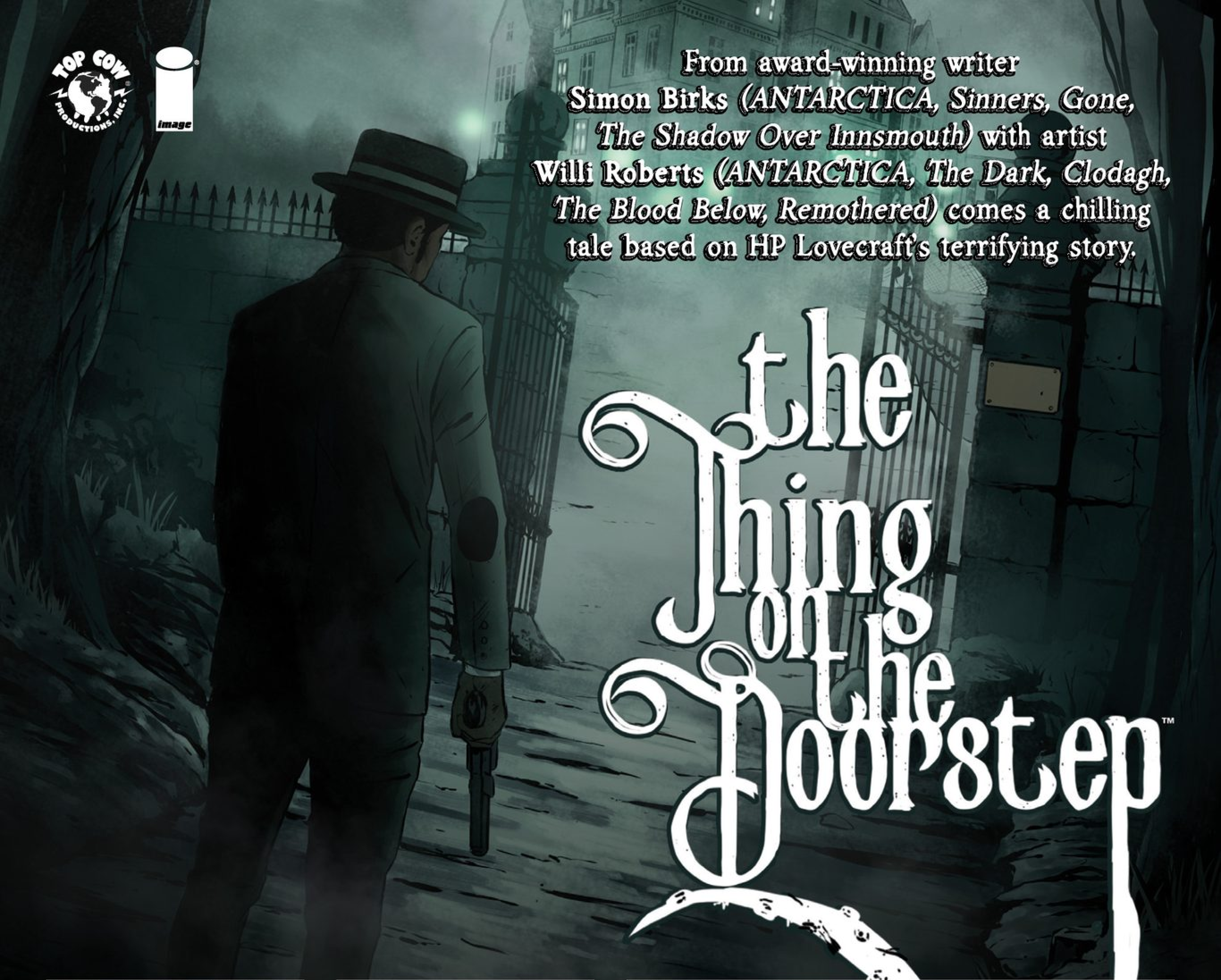
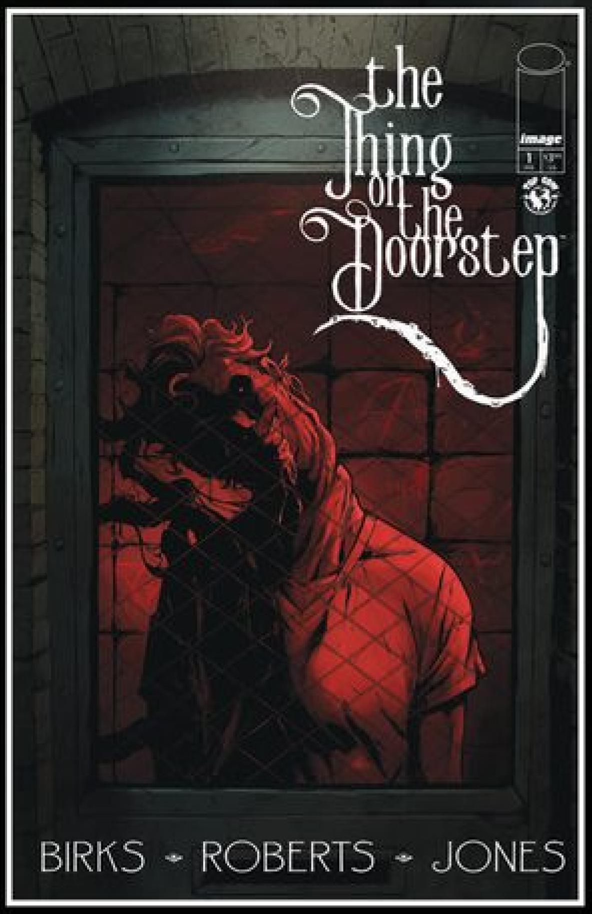
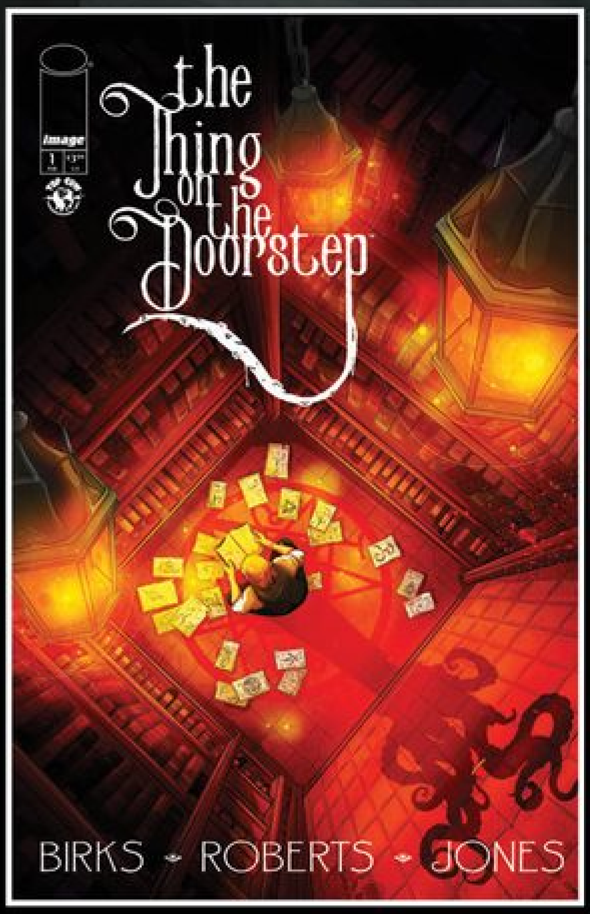


From award-winning writer
Simon Birks (*ANTARCTICA, Sinners, Gone, The Shadow Over Innsmouth*) with artist
Willi Roberts (*ANTARCTICA, The Dark, Clodagh, The Blood Below, Remothered*) comes a chilling tale based on HP Lovecraft's terrifying story.

the Thing on the Doorstep™

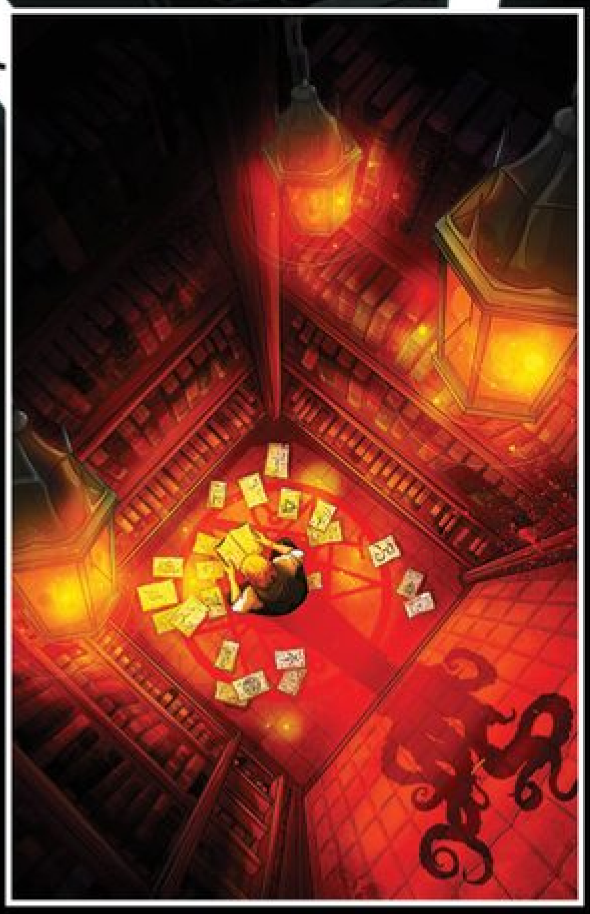


Cover A by
Willi Roberts
Fully Orderable



Cover B by
Lyndon White
Fully Orderable

Cover C by
Willi Roberts
1:10/Virgin



Cover D by
Lyndon White
1:25/Virgin

Daniel Upton and Edward Derby have been best friends almost their entire lives, right up to the point Daniel shoots Edward dead in the Arkham Sanitorium - a crime Daniel swears he didn't commit, despite all the evidence. What happened on that fateful day in Arkham? What is the truth behind this seemingly mindless act of violence? Witness the beginning of this doomed relationship and Edward's slow descent into a horrifying world beyond his control.

In-Stores February 11 / 32 PAGES / FC / T + / Teen Plus / $3.99

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COVER A ART BY **GIUSEPPE CAFARO** AND **ARIF PRIANTO**
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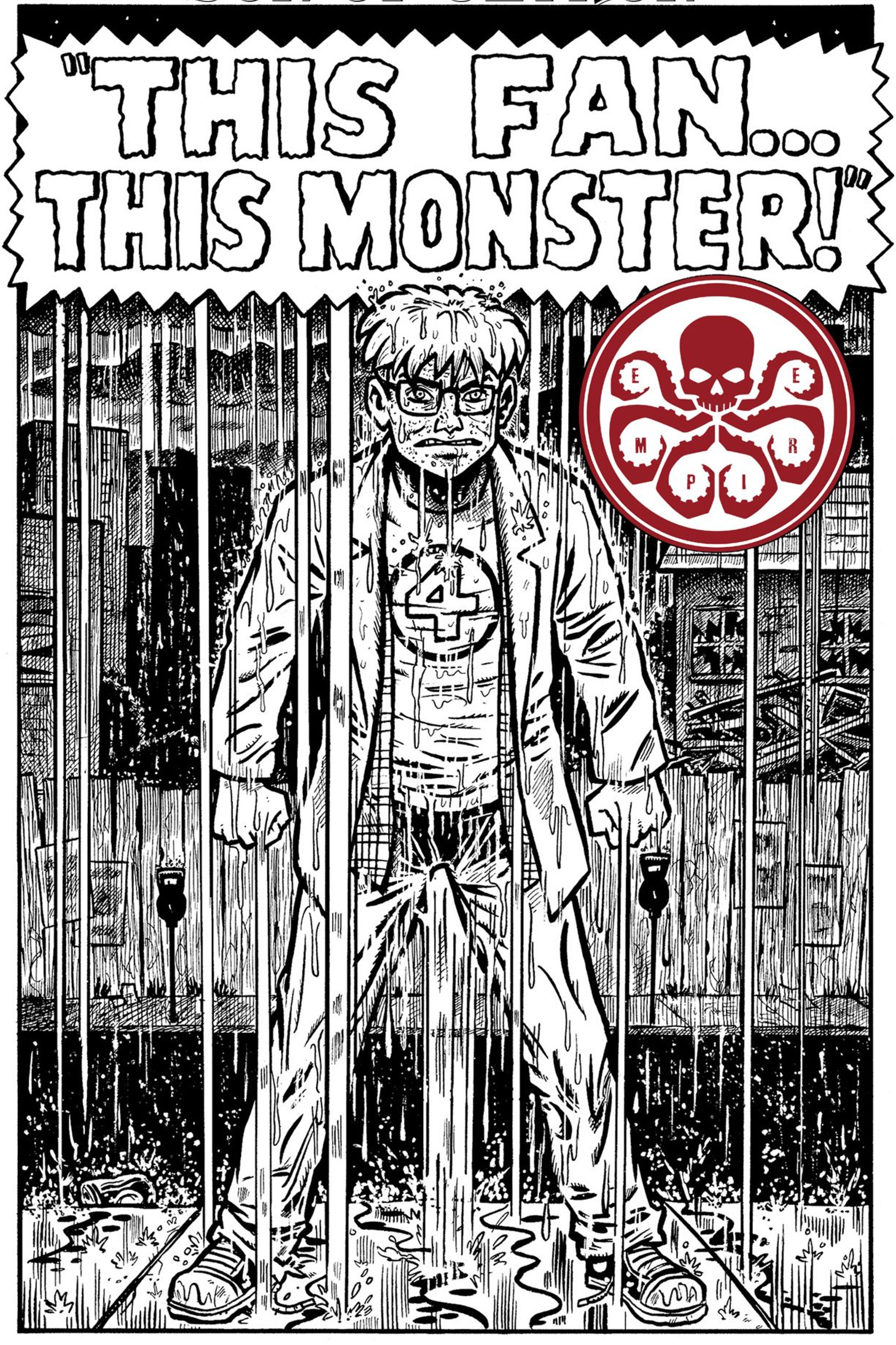
SON OF ULTRON


"THIS FAN... THIS MONSTER!"